FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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LD141310 [Editorial Report]

Iran

"Martyrdom" Maneuvers — An Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) communique broadcast by Tehran radio warned that foreign ships and aircraft should refrain from entering Iranian territorial waters and airspace in the Gulf and the Sea of Oman during the 4-6 August "martyrdom" maneuvers staged by the IRGC Navy. Reporting on the preliminary stages of the exercise, the radio said that "martyrdom-seekers" were stationed on islands and at "sensitive and important" points in the Hormuz area in readiness for carrying out "defensive land to sea operations" using "advanced military tactics." The first stage of maneuvers involved mock-combat operations in which IRGC and Mobilization units carried out ambushes and fired at hypothetical targets, IRNA noted.

Khomeyni Message to Pilgrims — The "vile and ungodly" Saudi leaders are like "daggers which have always pierced the heart of the Muslims from the back," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told Iranian pilgrims in a message broadcast by Tehran radio. While expressing sadness over the deaths of pilgrims in Mecca, he said the "blind" actions of the "inept and spineless" Saudi authorities unmasked their "ugly faces" as "U.S. puppets," proved their incompetence to administer the hajj, and gave strength and publicity to the Islamic revolution. Khomeyni said it is not surprising to see the "contaminated hands of the United States and Israel" emerging from the sleeves of the "devious" Saudi leadership, adding that the United States has placed a "blot of shame" which will "never be cleansed" on the brow of the Saudi Government. Iran holds the United States responsible for the "crimes" in Mecca and will "deal with her" at an "opportune" time, he warned.

Transfer of Bodies — In a 4 August interview with Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi maintained that the Saudi authorities have thus far failed to hand over dead and wounded Iranian pilgrims, contending that the Saudis are procrastinating in order to separate the bodies of pilgrims shot to death from the others. The first Iranian plane which landed in Saudi Arabia to pick up the bodies has been grounded and is surrounded by armed police, he said. As for the death toll in the 31 July events in Mecca, the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims' medical team told Tehran radio 3 August that 319 pilgrims were known to be dead, while 458 were still missing. The victims perished as a result of blows to the head, bullet wounds, suffocation, or being trampled under foot, he said, adding that the Saudis used "concussion shells which explode inside the body."

Vorontsov in Tehran — Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov held separate meetings with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, according to Tehran radio and IRNA. Vorontsov told Khamene'i of his sorrow over the Mecca incidents and expressed the Soviet Union's desire to expand relations and cooperation with Iran. Before leaving Tehran 4 August, he said "favorable grounds" have been created for political and economic cooperation, adding that the Soviet side is "extremely optimistic" about the future of bilateral relations, Tehran radio reported. According to a TASS report on the talks, the two sides agreed on the need for "large-scale" economic cooperation projects and expressed mutual concern about the "dangerous" U.S. military activity in the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia

Following up its earlier reportage on the behavior of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca, Riyadh television broadcast a report alleging that 95 bags containing 51 kilograms of C-4 plastic explosive were seized from a group of Iranians who arrived in the Kingdom during the 1986 pilgrimage. King Fahd ordered that the matter should remain confidential, partly in response to other Arab leaders who asked him not to publicize it in the hope that the Iranians would remember this "goodwill gesture," the television disclosed.

The report was denied by an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman who said the Saudis have resorted to such "misleading propaganda" in order to cover up their "massacre" of pilgrims, according to IRNA.

Iran-Iraq War

Battlefield Action — Iranian warplanes inflicted "substantial losses" on Iraqi troop concentrations near Maymak 4 August, IRNA reported. According to a military communique reported by the agency, Iranian forces also "smashed" various enemy attempts to recapture positions on Shohada Hill west of Maymak. A military commander cited by IRNA put Iraqi casualties during the "Nasr-6" operation at 10,500. For Iraq's part, a military spokesman denied claims that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down 2 August, INA reported.

Iraqi Missile Test — A surface-to-surface missile with a maximum range of 650 km was successfully tested 3 August, according to an announcement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The disclosure was made in a cable to President Saddam Husayn from the head of the civilian and military team responsible for developing the weapon.

Tunisia

Four explosions in tourist hotels in Susah and Munastir injured 12 foreigners and a Tunisian, according to an Interior Ministry statement reported by Tunis radio. According to an "authorized source," the "isolated actions" have not disturbed the country's "harmony and assurance."

Israel

Nonparticipation in U.S. Investigation — The government announced that it will no longer participate in the U.S. investigation of the Pollard case and will allow no other Israelis to be questioned by U.S. authorities, Jerusalem radio reported.

Confederation Plan — "Key Likud circles" are preparing a plan for "confederation between Israel and the territories," *'Al-Hamishmar* revealed 4 August, noting that Likud members and pro-PLO Palestinians have met secretly to discuss the proposal.

Gaza Restrictions — Following the murder of IDF Captain Ron Tal 2 August, land and sea exits to Gaza were blocked, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that although 10 passersby and local businessmen are still being questioned, there are no suspects.

Prisoner Release — On the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, 160 West Bank residents were released from prison, IDF radio reported.

'Arafat Reportedly To Visit USSR 'Next Month'

JN030958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 3 Aug (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will pay an official visit to the USSR next month in response to an official invitation. In a statement to an INA correspondent here today, responsible Palestinian sources said Yasir 'Arafat will discuss with the Soviet leaders a number of issues related to the international Middle East peace conference, the obstacles to its convening, the latest developments in the Palestinian cause, the PLO's relations with the Arab countries, and the campaigns of liquidation and annihilation against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

PNC's Al-Hasan on Iranian 'Provocations' at Mecca

JN031445 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Telephone interview with Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PNC Foreign Relations and Parliamentary Affairs Department, by an unidentified Radio Monte Carlo correspondent — date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Hasan] Anyone with an iota of logic should strongly reject the recent Mecca incidents and the Iranian provocations and unjustified killing of people, especially since these incidents took place in Mecca at the time of the pilgrimage. From a religious viewpoint, this is against Islam. The holy Koran has stated that there should be no wrangling or transgressions during the pilgrimage. There are clear verses to this effect and any violation of them is a violation of a religious verdict. Hence, the Iranians who perpetrated this massacre in Mecca are not true Muslims.

[Correspondent] Do you propose any measures to ease tension there?

[Al-Hasan] Tension can be eased only when the Iranian officials come to their senses and observe the correct rules of Islam which dictate that Muslims should resolve their problems through negotiations and peaceful means. As for the incident itself, this is left for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the wisdom of His Majesty King Fahd. This is true although I believe matters went too far. Such acts should be tackled in a way that will restore order and security to the area in a real manner.

[Correspondent] What is your assessment of overall Gulf developments at present?

[Al-Hasan] No one will eventually benefit from this Iranian escalation except for the United States and its allies, as well as Zionism and its allies in the region. Every escalation of the war and the heightening of tension will eventually serve the United States, Zionism, and their agents in the region. This escalation alone is a violation of Islam, if Iran is actually adopting Islam as a system of rule.

[Correspondent] You are aware of the fact that Saudi authorities have controlled the situation in Mecca and that calm has again prevailed. How do you view the way in which the Kingdom dealt with these tragic events?

[Al-Hasan] I congratulate His Majesty King Fahd and his brothers the princes and his aides on the wisdom, serenity, intrepidity, and patience they displayed not only dealing with this problem. In the past years there have been repeated attempts by Iranian pilgrims to smuggle weapons but his majesty the king always called for containing the situation and for avoiding any exacerbation. Now that new developments have occurred, I believe his majesty the king and Saudi officials should handle the situation in a manner that will prevent the recurrence of incidents. They should also expose all developments to the public through mass media so Muslims will know what is going on and therefore allow for no misinterpretation.

'Arafat Calls Saudi Ministers

JN031926 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a telephone conversation this morning, Monday, with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, and was reassured about developments in the situation. Brother Abu 'Ammar also made similar contacts with His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, and 'Ali al-Sha'ir, Saudi information minister, and was reassured about the situation in the Kingdom following the regrettable incidents in Mecca.

PFLP's Abu Sharif Denies Meeting With Mubarak

JN011822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] In Tunis, Bassam Abu Sharif has denied that he participated in the meeting that took place in Addis Ababa between President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat. He denounced the PFLP's measure against him. The PFLP decided to dismiss Abu Sharif because he took part in the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting.

'Arafat Adviser Comments

JN010724 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Nabil 'Amr, one of PLO Chairman 'Arafat's advisers, said in Tunis that Bassam Abu Shairf, member of the PFLP Central Committee, did not participate in the Addis Ababa meeting between President Husni Mubarak and the Palestinian delegation headed by 'Arafat. In a statement to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, 'Amr said Abu Sharif was a member of the Palestinian delegation to Addis ababa but he did not participate in the meeting with the Egyptian president.

The PFLP leadership blamed Abu Sharif for meeting with Mubarak. They dismissed him from the Central Committee and divested him from all of his responsibilities in the PFLP.

Abu Sharif Discusses Dismissal

JN020813 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 87 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — Bassam Abu Sharif, who dismissed from the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on Thursday denied on Saturday that he had attended a meeting between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last week in Addis Ababa.

"I did not participate in the meeting between the Palestinian and Egyptian leaders in Addis Ababa," Mr. Abu Sharif told the *Jordan Times* in a telephone interview from Abu Dhabi.

A statement by the PFLP Politburo issued in Damascus on Friday said that Mr. Abu Sharif was dismissed from the movement for attending the Egyptian-Palestinian summit which took place during a conference of the Organisation of African Unity which was held in Addis Ababa last month.

The PFLP has already condemned Mr. 'Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak describing as a "violation" of resolutions endorsed by the 18th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers last April."

The PNC resolution over relations with Egypt was a result of a compromise among the Palestinian factions. But, as it turned out, while the PFLP insisted that it implied severing contacts with Egypt. Mr. 'Arafat has repeatedly argued that "it has left the door open for future contacts with Cairo."

Consequently the PFLP Politburo statement accused Mr. Abu Sharif "of taking an individual stand on his own, flagrantly violating the front's policy and principles."

But Mr. Abu Sharif, who served as the PFLP spokesman until 1984, denied the charges and expressed shock and regret as the Politburo statement. "I sincerely regret the Politburo statement which was based on inaccurate reports."

A statement issued by the PLO in Addis Ababa and PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani represented the Palestinian side at the one-hour meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

According to well-informed sources the only time that Mr. Abu Sharif had come close to the Egptian delegation was at the conference hall when delegation shook hands with each other. "But it was strictly part of the protocol," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

The PFLP's statement, however, insisted that Mr. Abu Sharif was present at the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting and said that his step "was detrimental to the interests of the revolution as well as a departure from the resolutions of the PNC."

The front's decision baffled Palestine observers here despite longstanding differences which have emerged over the last four years between Mr. Abu Sharif and the PFLP leadership.

Both journalists and observers who have been following Palestinian developments since 1983 have noticed that Mr. Abu Sharif's personal assessments and stands varied from those of his leadership. Mr. Abu Sharif was also extremely critical of the Syrian policies towards the PLO leadership.

Makes Statement to WAFA

JN031944 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif [PFLP Central Committee member] has made the following statement to WAFA regarding the PFLP Central Committee's decision to suspend his membership:

I am surprised by and regret this decision which is unfounded since I did not participate in the talks between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Husni Mubarak. I affirm that I am proud of having spent 25 years in national struggle in which I participated with dear comrades, a large number of whom were martyred. I declare that the path of national struggle is through sacrifice to liberate Palestine and not through seeking gains here or there. I will continue on this path until we achieve our aims of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

PLO's Qaddumi Hails Iraq, Criticizes Genscher

JN311428 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] Tunis, July 31, INA — The head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi has praised Iraq's peaceful efforts to end the war with Iran. Interviewed by INA's Tunis correspondent Mr. Qaddumi said Iraq motivated by strong capability and self-confidence, is aware of the grave consequences of the conflict and for this reason, is energetically and sincerely seeking to put an end to the war. He criticized recent statement by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, as directed against international peace and security and a call for the continuation of this destructive war for the interest of imperialist and Zionist schemes.

PLO's 'Arafat Confers With Sharjah Ruler

JN021912 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1817 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with the Sharjah ruler, His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, in Sharjah yesterday. Their 1-hour meeting dealt with recent developments on the Palestine question on both the Arab and international levels and the continuous attacks against the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and Lebanese camps. The talks also concerned the serious developments in the Gulf war, the continuation of which threatens the fraternal Gulf states and the region's peace and security. Brother Nabil 'Amr, 'Arafat's adviser for information affairs, and Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Central Council member, attended the meeting.

Mubarak Phones King Husayn on Arab, Islamic Issues
NC031828 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan this evening. During their conversation, the two Arab leaders exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. They also discussed a number of Arab and Islamic issues.

Papers Condemn Israeli Official's Remarks
NC021309 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA) — The *Al-Ahram* and *Al-Akhbar* newspapers have condemned the statement made by Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Deqel, in which he called for the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Editorials in both papers agree that his statement is not a crazy remark by another Jewish fanatic, but instead reveals an Israeli strategy to deport the Palestinians and empty the Palestinian homeland so that it can become a totally Zionist country.

Under the headline "Suspicious Call and Sly Goals," *Al-Akhbar* states that these remarks reveal a (?firm) and long-term policy of the Tel Aviv leaders. This is a serious issue, for it discloses another stage in the Israeli strategy, which aims at eventually emptying the entire Palestinian homeland of the remaining Palestinians who have lived there for thousands of years so that it might become a totally Zionist homeland and thus forever close the book on the Palestinian issue.

The paper stresses that the goal behind such a call at this time is intended to obliterate the proposed idea of convening an international conference for peace to settle the Middle East issue. There would be no need for or meaning to such a conference if Israel's ultimate goal is to deport the Palestinians from the little land remaining for them after their homeland was usurped. In other words, the issue that the international peace conference is supposed to solve would not exist if the Palestinians were no longer present on the territory that was occupied after the 1967 war.

The paper further states that one does not need an unusual intellect to understand who is behind Deqel's insolent call or its timing. Several parties are seeking to overcome any obstacle that stands in the way of convening an international conference, which is receiving large-scale international support. At the same time, we have not heard one word of denouncement from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud leader or his colleagues, who are trying hard to keep the conference from convening and to prevent even the idea for it.

Al-Ahram stresses that Deqel's statement on the need for transferring or expelling 1.4 million Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan constitutes an official shock to all those advocating a Palestinian homeland and the improvement of the Palestinians' living conditions. This includes the United States. The statement by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, was timely and totally opposed to Deqel's remarks.

Al-Ahram points out that the Israeli official's statement is a link in a chain that began with the era of the early founders and was continued by their successors and the current leaders such as Shamir, who believe the story of a Palestinian homeland ended a long time ago or that it actually exists in Jordan. *Al-Ahram* notes the current dispute in Israel between those who believe in solving the issue and finding a formula of accord to ensure an era of security for Israel, and those who believe the matter requires nothing more than Israel holding on to the territory and emptying it of Palestinians. The paper concludes by saying that these two opposingtrends are the reason for delaying the convening of an international conference. The conference will not convene, the paper notes, unless certain parties change their views and realize that relying on the past neither serves nor guarantees the future.

Government Helps Defuse Sudan-Ethiopia Clash
PM030833 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Jul 87 p 1

[Unattributed Report: "Fighting Suspended on Sudanese-Ethiopian Borders After Egypt's Intervention"]

[Text] Last Thursday the Egyptian political leadership intensified contacts with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to persuade him to halt the fighting which suddenly broke out last Monday in the area of Al-Maza on the eastern Sudanese-Ethiopian border. Ethiopian forces had crossed the international border and attacked a unit belonging to the Sudanese Armed Forces in the eastern province of Sudan. President Mubarak asked Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is in Addis Ababa, to immediately contact the Ethiopian authorities to discuss the reasons for the sudden tension between the forces on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border. President Mubarak also told Dr Butrus Ghali to prepare an urgent report noting the reasons behind the sudden conflict and naming the party which began the attack. The issue is expected to be discussed among President Mubarak, the Ethiopian president, and [Sudanese Prime Minister] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on the sidelines of the African summit. *Al-Wafd* has learned that the Egyptian mediation was made at the request of the Sudanese authorities and Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani immediately after the clashes occured on the border between the two countries. Thanks to the strong relations between Presidents Mubarak and Mengistu, the Ethiopian authorities responded to the Egyptian endeavors. The Ethiopian president issued orders to all forces to stop all military operations and immediately withdraw to the international borders of the two countries. In a statement issued last Wednesday, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry stressed its complete eagerness to preserve the tangible improvement made in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

PLO Seeks Review of Case of Detained Palestinians
PM311325 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Jul 87 pp 1, 5

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar Report: "PLO Considers Sending Lawyers To Defend Palestinians Detained in Egyptian Prisons"]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Cairo have confirmed that the PLO is currently considering the possibility of sending a number of

lawyers to Cairo to defend Palestinians detained in Egyptian prisons on the charge of reviving and financing the Islamic Jihad organization. The Arab lawyers will request a review of all the files on investigations of Palestinian detainees conducted by the State Security Prosecution. *Al-Wafd* has learned that [Interior Minister] Major General Zaki Badr recently refused to release and deport the Palestinian detainees after investigations had ended. Three weeks ago security organs arrested five Palestinians and a Turk: 'Irfan Rizq, Jamal Hasan Bayyumi, Na'im Uthman, Ra'id Mustafa, Muhammad Bayyumi, and Najati Saljuq. They were arrested after the Interior Ministry received information from some Arab capitals to the effect that extremist foreign groups including Palestinian, Iranian, Syrian, Libyan, and Pakistani elements residing inside and outside Egypt were preparing to launch large-scale operations against members of the U.S. and Israeli diplomatic missions in Egypt, as well as certain public figures and writers who maintain strong relations with the Zionist entity in Egypt. Information received by the Interior Ministry also confirmed that these elements would carry out suicide operations against vital installations and locations in Egypt such as embassies, diplomats' homes, some ministries, public places, means of transport, consulates, police stations, and security directorates in various governorates. The objective of such operations was to embarrass the Egyptian regime in response to the government's decision to close down the PLO offices, the deportation of nearly 600 Palestinians residing in Egypt, and the exchange of visits between Egyptians and Israelis. The same information indicated that these extremist elements would smuggle arms and explosives through the Egyptian-Israeli borders. The State Security Prosecution leveled a number of charges at the Palestinian defendants and the Turk, foremost among which is the attempt to assassinate three U.S. diplomats, as well as the attempt to reform the banned Islamic Jihad organization, finance it through foreign regimes, and train its members in the use of arms and explosives.

President Receives Message From Cypriot Counterpart

NC031831 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the message this evening during a meeting with Cypriot Interior Minister Konstandinos Mikhailidhis, who is visiting Cairo. Relations between Egypt and Cyprus in various fields were discussed during the meeting.

Mubarak Reportedly Orders Halt to Military Deals

JN022012 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 30 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned from informed sources that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak issued specific instructions to the Egyptian Defense Ministry and the Egyptian Armed Forces command a few weeks ago to halt any new military deals regardless of size in order to avoid adding new foreign debts that the state Treasury may not be able to bear at the present time.

The sources explained that Egypt's foreign debts exceed $38 billion. Approximately half are military debts, most of which are owed to the United States. Some are owed to West European states — including France, Britain, Spain, Italy, and the FRG — in addition to the Soviet Union.

Government To Arm African Liberation Movements

PM031211 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Jul-4 Aug 87 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Arms for African Liberation Movements"]

[Text] The Egyptian Defense Ministry is currently studying requests from African liberation movements to purchase Egyptian arms. Egypt agreed to supply African liberation movements with weapons within the framework of resolutions adopted by the African foreign ministers' conference last May.

It has been decided that during his next visit to some African states, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will carry with him Egypt's initial agreement to supply arms.

It is worth mentioning that Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Chad, and South Africa had previously purchased arms from Egypt over the last 5 years.

Sidqi Reports Income From Free Banking Market

NC011706 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi said today that the projects of the first year of the 5-year plan, which came into effect on 1 July, are proceeding according to envisioned production and services rates. During a visit to Alexandria today, the prime minister added that income from the free banking market has so far reached approximately $900 million, which is being used for imports required for necessary production and material and for paying debt interest.

Dr Sidqi this morning inaugurated three electricity transformer stations in Alexandria which will serve industrial and residential areas of the governorate, particularly the reinforced iron factories in the Al-Dukhaylah area and factories in the Sumuh and Al-'Ajami areas. The overall cost of these stations was 90 million pounds, and their combined capacity is approximately 600 megawatts.

Ship Captain Permitted To Leave South Korea

NC021759 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA) — Sin Ki-nok, the Korean consul general to Egypt, has asserted that Samir al-'Unaybi, captain of the Egyptian ship *Al-Mandarah* has not been detained or placed in prison and that his case has been handled on the basis of his country's eagerness to maintain good relations with Egypt.

During a meeting with Wafa' Hijazi, Egyptian assistant foreign minister, today, Sin said that throughout his stay in Korea the captain had lived in a first-class hotel, was treated very well, and was kept in the country so that an investigation could be completed on the conditions which led to the destruction of his ship and the damages and losses to the families of 1,500 Korean fishermen as a result of the pollution of fishing farms which provide their livelihood.

The meeting, which was also attended by Ambassador Isma'il Makhluf, the director of the Asian Section at the Foreign Ministry, took place at the request of the Korean consul to inform the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that Korea has responded to the request that the Egyptian captain be permitted to leave Korea.

Al-Qadhdhafi Condemns Mecca 'Pilgrim Massacre'

LD021650 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Libya's leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi condemned Friday's [31 July] pilgrim massacre in Mecca by the Saudi Arabian police as an unprecedented and brutal carnage in the annals of history. "Libya will not remain silent vis-a-vis this dangerous crime committed by Saudi Arabia," he stressed.

The Libyan leader made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador in Tripoli Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari Saturday.

Khonsari said at the meeting that Saudi Arabia's objective was undoubtedly to cover up the continued defeats suffered by the criminal U.S. in the region. The crime was directly ordered by the 'great satan' and carried out by the Saudi Arabian regime, he added.

In response, the Libyan leader expressing deep regret over the pilgrims' slaughter said the safe sanctuary of Allah's house was profaned by the Saudi Arabian police. Security of all hajj pilgrims as well as the future of Mecca are endangered, he stressed.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi emphasised that serious measures should be taken so that all Islamic countries would jointly administer these holy sanctuaries. Libya will not keep silent towards such heinous crimes, said the Libyan leader who seemed obviously shocked and outraged at the savage massacre of pilgrims by the criminal Saudi Arabian police.

Pilgrims Office Concerned for Safety of Pilgrims

LD030940 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 3, *Jamahiryah News Agency* — An official source at the Office of Pilgrims in the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport expressed the deep concern of the officials in charge of Libyan Arab pilgrims' safety as a result of the escalation of events witnessed (?at) the holy shrine of Mecca which represent a serious deterioration of security which may threaten the safety of all Muslim pilgrims.

The source said the house of God (bayt Allah) on which the Almighty God says in the holy Koran 'anyone who enters will be safe' its security is being disturbed and that calls for concern.

Algerian Assembly Delegation Concludes Visit

LD031336 Tripoli JANA in English 1045 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 3, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The General People's Congress in Great Jamahiriyah and the Algerian National Assembly have called on the parliament of Al-Arab Maghreb to find a formula for dialogue to build Al-Arab Maghreb as a stepping-stone to the overall Arab unity. This comes on the conclusion of the unionist meetings held in Tripoli within the framework of the visit paid by Mr. Djelloul Melaika, member of the Politburo of the Algerian Front of National Liberation and vice-speaker of the Algerian National Assembly and his accompanying delegation.

This visit comes in implementation of the directives of the leaderships of the two countries through the meetings held in "I-n Amenas", "Surt" and [name indistinct] to stress the results of the follow-up committee of the unionist political action between Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria and within the framework of the current work between the two peoples in the sisterly countries, apart from being an implementation of what has been agreed upon between the Algerian National Assembly and the General People's Congress.

A delegation headed by Mr. Djelloul Melaika has paid a visit to Great Jamahiriyah within the purview of the joint committee set up at Algiers meeting.

The delegation has been received by the leader of the revolution. In their meeting, they have stressed the continuation of dialogue between the people's bodies to include the people's organisations in the two countries.

The delegation has also been received by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmed Jallud and the secretary of the General People's Congress. A unionist dialogue has been conducted between it and the delegation of the General People's Congress focussing on the following topics:

1 — The manner in which economic plans are drawn up in addition to following up and supervising their carrying out.

2 — The manner in which laws are made, released and approved, apart from their application in the two countries.

3 — The manner in which treaties are concluded and the way in which they are approved in the two countries.

4 — Observing the legislative establishments in the draft union of constitutions between the two countries.

Through the dialogue conducted between the two sides it has become apparent that there exist common denominations based on the following principles:

1 — The availability of several similar administrative, financial and people's control organs in the two countries.

2 — The people's congresses in Great Jamahiriyah and the Algerian National Assembly have approved the overall development plan and the follow-up of its implementation in the two countries.

The above Algerian delegation has visited a number of towns and municipalities in Great Jamahiriyah holding meetings and conducting dialogues with the masses of the people's congresses, the secretariat of the congresses and people's committees to become acquainted with the people's experiment applied in Great Jamahiriyah.

It has also witnessed the massive civilized accomplishments achieved in Great Jamahiriyah at the hands of the great Al-Fateh revolution.

The Algerian delegation has witnessed the effects of the barbaric and abortive U.S. aggression in the two cities of Tripoli and Banghazi and especially the house of the leader of the revolution.

The following points have been agreed upon:

1 — Holding the second meeting of the joint committee in Algiers in the first half of Tumur (October) 1987 to continue the dialogue on the following points:

A — Getting acquainted with the local administrative order of the two countries.

B — Take cognizance of the regulation of acquiring agricultural and forming (?private) property, land reclamation and its distribution to the citizens in both countries.

C — Becoming aware of the educational and teaching regulations in both countries.

D — Take cognizance of investment legislation and joint firms in both countries.

E — Take cognizance of legislations regulating labour and labourers in both countries.

F — Take cognizance of the activity of the Algerian National Assembly within the foreign relations of the Assembly.

G — Calling on the parliaments of Al-Arab Maghreb countries to find a formula of dialogue to build the big Al-Arab Maghreb as a stepping-stone to the comprehensive Arab unity.

Melaika, Delegation Depart

LD022327 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Aug (JANA) — Brother Djelloul Melaika, member of the FLN party Central Committee and deputy speaker of the National People's Assembly, and his accompanying delegation departed Tripoli this evening following a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. This visit came within the framework of the serious and constructive action undertaken by the mixed committee and emanating from Algeria's meeting.

Brother Djelloul Melaika affirmed that the meetings he held during his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah have achieved encouraging results on the way to the building the unity of the Great Arab Maghreb.

In a statement he made to a JANA correspondent at Tripoli International Airport, Melaika pointed out that his visit and that of his accompanying delegation has come under the framework of continuing dialogue between the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Algerian National People's Assembly on the level of an exchange of experiences.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Birthday Greetings to Bourguiba

LD030928 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 3, *Jamahiryah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution sent congratulations to President Habib Burguiba of Tunisia on the occasion of his birthday. Text as follows:

His Excellency Habib Bourguiba, president of the Republic of Tunisia,

I have the pleasure, on the occasion of your birthday, to send you my warmest congratulations and sincere wishes for continuous good health and prosperity hoping that the Almighty may help you to successfully serve the Arab people of sisterly Tunisia and that the same occasion return with prosperity and happiness. [sentence as received]

Your brother

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Prime Minister To Lift State of Emergency

EA031226 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday announced that the state of emergency he declared 9 days ago was a [word indistinct] measure taken to curb illegal acts, and that he would therefore lift it as soon as possible. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made his statement on lifting the 1-year state of emergency at a news conference in Khartoum. The prime minister commented that the purpose of the state of emergency, which was declared by Sudan's State Council 9 days ago, was to combat illegal dealing, armed robbery, and illegal possession of weapons.

The [words indistinct] Khartoum, the nation's capital, and other areas were shaken by a wave of student demonstrations and 1-week strikes. Opposition parties and trade unions have denounced the state of emergency as unnecessary and an attempt to deny the people their freedom by strengthening the law.

Al-MAJALLAH Interviews Foreign Minister Tawfiq

PM031547 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Jul-4 Aug 87 p 11

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq by Sa'idah Ramadan in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Ramadan] There are those who say that your visit is due to recent visit by Dr al-Turabi [secretary general of the Sudanese National Islamic Front], especially following reports that there are attempts to open a channel with Egypt at the expense of the [Democratic] Unionist Party [DUP]. What is your reaction to this?

[Tawfiq] The unionist ministers' meeting in Cairo was an accident more than a planned visit. I was on a special visit, but I can confirm that the National Islamic Front's attempts and its adoption of the DUP's slogans are an assumption on their part that the party is on its way to extinction and that they can replace the DUP. However, they are completely deluding themselves, since there is complete awareness that the Front's attempts to establish relations with Egypt are a tactical rather than a strategic policy.

[Ramadan] You met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid during your visit to Cairo, which was the first meeting between the two nations' foreign ministers since Egypt officially asked Sudan to define its position toward their joint defense agreement. So, can you describe the government's view on this agreement?

[Tawfiq] Repeated talk about whether to cancel or maintain the joint defense agreement has become a dead letter. This is because the relationship between Sudan and Egypt has passed beyond this stage and is now more than a joint defense agreement. There should be consideration of a security plan for the Nile Valley. The word security itself is comprehensive and deep since it means both defense and nondefense. Actually, both today and when I was minister of information, I never heard of an official request from Egypt to Sudan to define its position toward the joint defense agreement. These matters concern Sudanese foreign policy and are the business of the Foreign Ministry and no one else. Therefore, if any opinion concerning foreign policy is expressed by someone else, it will be considered a personal opinion.

[Ramadan] The media released press statements of your statements confirming that the joint defense agreement had been canceled. These statements, however, conflict with other declarations you made confirming that it will remain in effect. We would like this matter to be clarified.

[Tawfiq] A false statement was attributed to me, one which quoted me as saying that the joint defense agreement had lapsed with the fall of Al-Numayri, just as other agreements had lapsed. The truth is that when I was asked about the meaning of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statements concerning this agreement, I stated that with the fall of Al-Numayri, all agreements concluded during his era had now lapsed. I said this simply to explain Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statement; my opinion is known, since I have already declared it. I am one of those who believe that the Nile Valley's security is a single whole that cannot be divided.

[Ramadan] Are there any differences between the Council of Ministers and the Foreign Ministry over who should manage the nation's foreign policy?

[Tawfiq] The time has come for the Foreign Ministry to assume the responsibilities and powers of which it was deprived. During Al-Numayri's rule, the Foreign Ministry had no effective role. During the transitional period and the period of democratic rule, the Foreign Ministry's powers remained distributed among the Ministerial Council, the Presidential Office, and other ministries. Therefore, the Foreign Ministry must restore its responsibilities and powers so that it can implement the policy drawn up by the political leadership, indeed, participate in formulating this policy, which is in fact the essence of its existence. Otherwise, any policies formulated without the Foreign Ministry's participation will be considered personal ideas.

[Ramadan] Your meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid prior to the African summit coincided with reports on the success of Egypt's mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia. What is the latest on this situation?

[Tawfiq] The Sudanese prime minister on 6 April presented an initiative to those that have taken up arms in southern Sudan. President Mengistu Mariam then paid a visit to Egypt and held talks with President Mubarak on normalizing Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. President Mengistu also sent a message to Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi on this same topic; it was delivered by the Ethiopian minister of information. This confirmed that Ethiopia agrees in principle with mediation. However, the success of these endeavors via the African summit rests on good intentions, due to the lack of trust between Sudan and Ethiopia. If this can be eliminated during the meetings between the parties concerned, the initiative will then succeed.

[Ramadan] During his visit to Egypt, President Mengistu denied the existence of mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia. How do you explain this?

[Tawfiq] What was meant was that the Sudanese-Ethiopian dispute does not require mediation. However, Sudan's concern is that security should include the Horn of Africa, since this would convert the Red Sea into a zone of peace.

[Ramadan] Is there coordination between Egypt and Sudan on some issues that concern the two countries at the conference?

[Tawfiq] Yes, there is coordination on all issues such as the Gulf war that concern both countries. In this conflict, we seek a solution by approaching quarters that support peace — the Security Council or the ICO — make every possible effort for peace, and provide every type of assistance in this regard.

[Ramadan] You accompanied the Sudanese prime minister during his recent tour. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, however, prolonged his stay in London. What was the reason for this?

[Tawfiq] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to London is a personal visit that will last 1 week.

Radio SPLA Reports Police Post Overrun 21 Jul
EA312144 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Excerpt] SPLA forces of Shakush Task Force 1 under the direct command of Major John (?Kulang) have overrun the enemy police post at Iwatoku in Yei District and seized control of the town. According to our correspondent, the force of Shakush 2 captured Iwakoku after a surprise attack against the police post on 21 July 1987. The enemy forces, who were taken completely by surprise, fled in panic and confusion into the nearby bushes, abandoning the following vehicles and equipment, all in good working condition: Bedford lorry No EE8236, Land Rover No EE6539, Commer No EE131, Commer No EE6369, two radio communication sets, video equipment, and three typewriters. [passage omitted]

13 Persons Injured in Explosions 2-3 Aug
LD040058 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] The Ministry of Interior has issued a statement declaring that four explosions occurred in Souse and Monastir on the night of 2-3 August 1987. Preliminary investigations indicate that these explosions were caused by small, handmade explosives. Thirteen persons were injured: five British, seven Italian, and one Tunisian. All the injured have now left the hospital after receiving treatment except for a female British tourist who has undergone surgery but whose condition is not serious.

The Ministry of Interior has taken a number of steps to tighten security in tourist establishments to guarantee their safety and the safety of those residing there. These steps have been adopted with the cooperation of the regional authorities and the national tourist department.

It has been learned that the police have begun investigating the case, and it appears that the national security authorities possess concrete clues that will lead to the culprits. According to an authorized source, these isolated actions have not disturbed the nation's harmony and security.

President Receives Report
LD041243 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba held a working meeting at the Presidential Palace in Skanes this morning with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar; Amor Chedli, the minister director of the Presidential Office; and Mansour Skhiri, the minister of equipment, housing, and transport.

Rachid Sfar presented his excellency the head of state a report on the working session he held yesterday with his colleagues, the ministers accompanying Moroccan Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohammed, on bilateral cooperation and issues relating to the Arab Maghreb. Rachid Sfar added that he yesterday morning presented the head of state with preliminary facts concerning the explosions that occurred in Sousse and Monastir on the evening of 2-3 August. He then gave his excellency a detailed report on these criminal acts directed against some hotels, as well as on measures affecting either the investigation's progress or the care and treatment being given to the injured. The report also covered measures to reinforce and reorganize methods of control to prevent such criminal attitudes.

The prime minister indicated that the supreme combatant reaffirmed that this criminal behavior is high treason affecting the nation's paramount interests and that all citizens must be mobilized to make them vigilant and alert to thwart actions of this criminal gang. The supreme combatant also praised the efforts of the security authorities and security forces. He urged encouragement and support for them, and also praised the performance of medical teams that carried out their duties on the spot and in the highest possible manner.

Rachid Sfar announced that the supreme combatant entrusted Zine Labadine Ben Ali, minister of state in charge of the interior, with receiving the British and Italian ambassadors to Tunis. A number of nationals from these two countries were injured during the attacks. However, all the injured have left area hospitals in good condition.

KUWAIT

Tunisian Prime Minister Sfar Arrives 1 Aug

LD020405 Kuwait KUNA in English 1001 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1 (KUNA) — Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar arrived here Saturday from Abu Dhabi after concluding a three-day state visit to United Arab Emirates. The Tunisian guest was greeted at the airport by H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, ministers, and the ambassadors in the two countries.

Sfar told KUNA in Abu Dhabi that he is carrying a message to H.H. the amir from President Habib Bourguiba on latest Arab development, the situation in the Gulf, and in the Arab Maghreb Region, in addition to bilateral relations, which he described as "strong". He added that he will brief the amir on the current developments in the Arab Maghreb which aims at forging Maghreb unity.

He advocated contacts between the Arab states to end their differences, as what happened between Syria and Iraq, and affirmed that such efforts should continue as the Arabs face one enemy. Sfar said that his country works hard for the unity of the Arabs, and cooperate with the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in this regard.

He added that in order to end inter-Arab differences, the Arab countries should not interfere in internal affairs of each other and the sovereignty of each country should be respected by the others. "The Arab countries should cooperate with each other, and no revolution should be exported from one state to another" the prime minister went on.

Hailing the GCC, he hoped that such a model would prevail in other Arab areas.

On the expected unity of the Arab Maghreb, Sfar said that it will group at least five states, that of Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, yet practically it will likely start with less than that number and the rest would join later.

Regarding the Arab summit, he hoped that it will take place before the end of current year to help in putting an end to disputes.

Sfar said his visit to Kuwait will be one-day only as he has to be in his country tomorrow to receive the Moroccan crown prince who is scheduled to start a visit to Tunisia Sunday.

Pointing at the strong relations between Kuwait and his country, Sfar expressed hope that his visit will give further boost to such a relationship. "The Tunisian-Kuwaiti cooperation covered industrial and banking sectors, as well as tourism," Sfar said, and noted that such cooperation will progress under the leadership of the two countries' leaders.

Received by Amir

LD011000 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] At 1030, the amir of Kuwait received Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar, who delivered a message from his brother Habib Bourguiba. The audience was attended by the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; Minister of Finance Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi; the Tunisian ambassador to Kuwait; and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tunisia.

Departs 1 Aug

LD020422 Kuwait KUNA in English 1257 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1 (KUNA) — Tunisian Premier Rashid Sfar left here Saturday concluding a short visit to Kuwait. He was seen off by H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Health Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi and several other officials.

Turkish Official Arrives on Visit 31 Jul

LD312152 Kuwait KUNA in English 1902 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 31 (KUNA) — Undersecretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, Nuzhet Kandemir arrived here this evening on a visit to Kuwait. During his stay here, the Turkish official will deliver two messages to H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince and prime minister from Turkish President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

On hand to receive the Turkish guest on arrival were Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry undersecretary; a representative of the Protocol Department; and the Turkish ambassador to Kuwait.

Meets With Amir

TA011815 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir, Foreign Ministry under secretary, currently on a visit to Kuwait, has held meetings with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and with Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

Kandemir conveyed to the Kuwaiti amir a message from President Kenan Evren. It was reported that the president's message is in reply to Al-Sabah's message to Evren last month concerning recent developments in the region. Kandemir conferred with the Kuwaiti amir for 1 hour and also met with his counterpart, Al-Shahin. Bilateral relations as well as recent developments in the region were discussed during these meetings. Agreement was also reached during Kandemir's contacts in Kuwait to develop bilateral cooperation in every field and continue to hold mutual contacts.

IRNA: Kuwaiti Muslims Criticize Ruling Shaykhs

LD031030 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — Kuwaiti Muslims in a statement recently handed out in Kuwaiti mosques and Islamic centers this week warned the rulers of the sheikhdom of the 'dire consequences of their foreign policy' for suppressing the Muslim movements in the region.

The statement said that the arrest, torture and trial of true Muslims simultaneously with and after the meeting of Organization of Islamic Conference sparked the indignation of Kuwaiti Muslims against ruling sheikhs. It declared that Kuwaiti's irrational foreign policy towards the regional countries has dragged the war into Kuwait's territory.

Kuwaiti Muslims stated that several Kuwait's armed forces members had been dismissed for fear that 'they might become advocates of the Islamic Revolution'. This, the statement said, reflects the degree of political tension and stress in Kuwait.

Denouncing Kuwait's military assistance to Iraq the statement said that the economy of the sheikhdom is fast approaching its collapse by spending up the nation's assets.

The propaganda war waged by Kuwaiti press and their backing of the Iraqi regime against the Islamic revolution has been condemned in the statement. Kuwaiti Muslims also strongly denounced the unlawful arrest of Iraqi, Iranian, Lebanese and even Kuwaiti nationals in Kuwait and confiscation of their property and their repatriaion.

British Refusal of Minesweeper Request Reported

LD011046 Kuwait KUNA in English 0909 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Excerpt] London, Aug 1 (KUNA) — The British Ministry of Defence strongly urged against sending minesweepers to the Gulf because of the "huge logistical problems involved", it was revealed here Saturday.

Although some parts of the Royal Navy were keen to show Britain's sophistocated mine counter-measures in action, defence chiefs decided that, apart from political problems, there were "too many operational disadvantages", British sources said.

They noted that with top speed of 16 knots or less, the ships would need more than three weeks to reach the Gulf. Once there, they would face a highly complicated operation clearing mines from numerous locations and large shipping channels, the sources pointed out.

It is estimated here that the number of vessels required ranged from six to 40.

Britain has 42, mainly used to keep open the entrances to British bases such as Faslane on the Clyde, Scotland, where the nuclear-armed Polaris submarines are based. The ships, mostly armed with just one 40mm gun, are vulnerable to attack from the air or by the small launches Iran's revolutionary squads use, the British sources suggested.

This would inevitably lead to the need for greater protection from British frigates and destroyers.

Britain's Armilla patrol in the Gulf, which consists of three frigates or destroyers, with a fleet auxiliary ship, accounts for 18 per cent of the Royal Navy's entire escort force, the sources added.

Last night, the government rejected America's request for minesweepers to aid its operations in the Gulf. And the decision was seen here as in line with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's insistence that Britain "must maintain a low-profile non-provocative presence" in the area, they recalled.

Washington's European allies — Holland and West Germany — have also turned down similar requests.

The American plea was made last Thursday by U.S. ambassador here, Charles Price, in a meeting with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. It followed a mine explosion more than a week ago which damaged the re-registered Kuwaiti tanker, the *Bridgeton*, was being escorted through the Gulf by a U.S. Navy task force. [sentence as received] [passage omitted]

IZVESTIYA Cited on Kuwait's Stand on Gulf War

LD011157 Kuwait KUNA in English 1030 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Moscow, Aug 1 (KUNA) — The official *Izvestiya* newspaper has emphasized Kuwait's positive stance on the Gulf war, pointing out that "Kuwait is not desirous in a fresh stepping up of the situation in the Arab Gulf nor around it."

The evening government paper, in a commentary published Friday evening, recalled Kuwait's repeated appeals on Iran to halt its war with Iraq and her rejection to give the Americans either military or air bases on its territory.

It noted that after being affected by the ongoing Iraq-Iran war, Kuwait has taken the exceptional step of enlisting help from the five permanent member-states of the Security Council, either by way of leasing oil tankers or re-registering Kuwaiti tankers in these countries.

The paper reminded of the official statements made by H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah during his press conference last month. Shaykh Sa'd has explained that the Kwauti measure of chartering or re-registering tankers was a purely commercial arrangement to ensure the flow of Kuwaiti oil exports, rather than a provocation of any party, *Izvestiya* stressed.

In conclusion, the paper defended the measure as not new and lashed out at the U.S. accusing it of anti-Soviet activities under the guise of helping the Arabs.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Goes to Mina To Assure Pilgrims' 'Comfort'

LD031914 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Mina, 3 Aug SPA — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, with God's care and protection, arrived in Mina this afternoon to see directly to the comfort of the pilgrims and to reassure himself of the state of the general plan for pilgrims traveling to the holy places.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, arrived in Mina at the same time for the same noble purpose. [passage omitted]

Iran Pilgrim Cited on 'Subversive' Instructions

LD032219 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1832 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] An Iranian pilgrim has revealed that any Iranian violating instructions given to him by Iranian officials in connection with his participation in a subversive act is severely punished. The Iranian pilgrim, who declined to reveal his name, said in an interview published by *Al-Madinah* today: I know that what happened in Mecca last Friday was a bad thing and totally unacceptable. He then bowed his head and broke down.

Iranians Interrogated

JN041247 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Aug 87

['Abdallah al-Shihri dispatch from Mina, Saudi Arabia]

[Text] Preliminary interrogation of the leaders and elements of the demagogic Iranian procession staged last Friday revealed that the plan stipulated shutting off the worshippers — both pilgrims and citizens — inside the holy Mecca mosque as a first step toward proclaiming Khomeyni holy imam of Muslims and forcing the pilgrims to pay allegiance to the ringleaders on behalf of Khomeyni. The plan also stipulated declaring the Iranian city of Qom a holy place to which Muslims travel for pilgrimage. It also called for killing the imam of the holy Mecca mosque and anyone preventing the implementation of the plot.

The sixth clause of the Iranian procession plan called for burning parts of the holy Ka'bah to further humiliate the Islamic nation. They would then accuse the Saudi authorities and citizens of this arson.

The Iranians also confessed that the Iranian authorities resorted to a different tactic this year, after the failure of their previous attempts. They sent hundreds of thousands to the holy shrines under cover of the pilgrimage — 25 percent of them revolutionary guards, 40 percent suicidal volunteers, 13 percent the so-called generation of the revolution, and only 22 percent real pilgrims.

TV Reports Relay of Hajj Pilgrimage Coverage

LD032305 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1832 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Saudi television this morning relayed [video footage of] the pilgrims stop at God's holy house in Arafat. The transmission began at 0800 on the first channel and at 0900 on the second channel.

Twenty-five countries, news agencies, and television stations picked up and carried live the Saudi television relay of the noon and afternoon prayers from the Namirah Mosque in Arafat. The countries that picked up the event were the Republic of Iraq, the PDRY, the UAE, the YAR, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the State of Kuwait, the State of Bahrain, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Tunisia, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei, the Maldives, Uganda, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Japan, Senegal, Nigeria, Turkey, Indonesia, and Djibouti, and the news agencies *Visnews*, WTN, and ABC.

Eight countries carried the relay of the pilgrims' departure from Arafat to Muzdalifah. The relay was made available with the cooperation of Saudi television and ARABSAT. The countries were the State of Kuwait, the YAR, the UAE, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of Tunisia, Djibouti, and the State of Bahrain.

Seventeen countries will participate with Saudi television tomorrow morning in relaying the pilgrims' prayers at the blessed 'Id al-Adha [ritual celebrated at end of hajj pilgrimage] from the Grand Mosque in Mecca. These are the Republic of Iraq, the UAE, the YAR, the PDRY, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Tunisia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Pakistan, Brunei, Tanzania, Mauritania, Djibouti, Senegal, Turkey, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

The festivities are being relayed to the Islamic states via two satellites over the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The pilgrims' departure from Arafat was relayed by ARABSAT to the Arab states.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Tunisian Prime Minister Departs After Visit

JN011854 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 1 Aug (WAM) — His Excellency Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar left the UAE for Kuwait this morning following a 3-day visit as part of a tour of a number of regional states.

During his visit, His Excellency Rachid Sfar conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, from his brother His Excellency Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. The message dealt with relations between the two countries and current Arab developments. He

also met with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Seeing him off at the airport were His Excellency Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, minister of public works and housing, and 'Adnan al-Damirji, Tunisian charge d'affaires to the UAE. [passage omitted]

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Communique Issued on People's Assembly USSR Trip

JN021907 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A joint communique has been issued on the Constituent People's Assembly delegation's visit to the Soviet Union 22-29 July 1987. In the communique, the two sides emphasize their continued determination to further develop bilateral relations between the YAR and the USSR in the interests of the two friendly peoples and countries. The communique also refers to the great role that the Constituent People's Assembly and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium may play in enriching and developing bilateral relations in all spheres and in enhancing contacts between the two assemblies.

The two sides express concern over the continued tension in the Middle East and emphasize the need to reach a just and lasting solution to the conflict on the basis of collective efforts with the equal participation of all parties concerned — including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In this regard, the two sides call for an international Mideast peace conference under UN auspices and for a preliminary committee to prepare for the conference. The two sides say that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council must participate in the committee.

The two sides also express unflinching support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO to realize their legitimate national rights. They also express satisfaction with the restoration of the PLO's unity and especially with the results of the PNC session in Algiers. The Constituent People's Assembly delegation expresses gratitude to the Soviet Union for its continued and principled stand in support of the Arab peoples struggle against Israel's intransigent policy.

As regards the Iraq-Iran war, the two sides call for an end to this conflict and a settlement through peaceful means in a manner that will serve the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and stabilize the situation in the Arab Gulf region. The two sides also stress the need of Moscow and Washington reaching an agreement on drastically reducing offensive and strategic weapons to prevent the arms race from spreading into outer space. They also emphasize the need to avert the dangers of nuclear armament.

In the joint communique, the two sides call for an equitable international economic order. They emphasize the importance of all countries of the world participating in bringing about a comprehensive order for international security, which will help channel resources to the developing nations of the world.

The Soviet side pays tribute to the growing role the Nonaliged Movement has recently played in international issues and highly values the YAR's stands on international issues as displayed within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Constituent People's Assembly delegation expresses its thanks for the hospitality and welcome accorded to it during its visit to the Soviet Union.

600 Km Surface-to-Surface Missile Tested 3 Aug

JN040932 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0855 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement of "text" of cable to President Saddam Husayn from Dr 'Amir Hammud al-Sa'di, head of the surface-to-surface missile research and development team — date not given]

[Text] With hearts full of faith in God and in the justice of our cause and confident that God supports us, we bring to Your Excellency glad tidings from your men in military industrial production on this blessed day, the first day of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

In implementing instructions from Secretary of the Presidency Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, a civilian and military team has developed surface-to-surface missiles with a range of more than 600 km. This has been achieved through assiduous and persistent work to complete the assigned task. The team's effort has been crowned with success. At 0800 [0400 GMT] yesterday, 3 August 1987, an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile was launched with complete success, achieving its programmed range. It fell in the target area, which was located 615 km from the launch point. The maximum range of this missile is 650 km.

We would like to affirm to Your Excellency that this experience has opened new vistas to us. We are now capable of attaining greater ranges should you order us to do so.

We pledge to Your Excellency that we will await your instructions to carry out any mission, no matter how difficult it may be, for the glory of Iraq and the Arab nation, to safeguard their security and sovereignty against threats of aggression from any source, and to achieve peace and progress. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] Dr 'Amir Hammud al-Sa'di, head of the surface-to-surface missile research and development team

President Phones Saudi King, Denounces Mecca Riot

JN031618 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn held a telephone conversation with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of Saudi Arabia, at noon today. The president first congratulated his brother King Fahd on 'Id al-Adha. His Excellency then renewed Iraq's denunciation of the riot, sabotage, and aggression carried out by the henchmen of charlatan Khomeyni in Mecca in violation of Muslim traditions, mores, and ethics.

The president pointed out that Arab and Islamic reactions against the regime of charlatan Khomeyni, against its henchmen, and against its evil and aggressive deeds perpetrated in Mecca and at the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran are still less than is required.

His Excellency urged that these deeds be denounced by Arabs and Muslims, individually and collectively, in a loud voice. They should use all means at their disposal to do so to ensure that this denunciation will be a lesson both to those seeking to exploit the holy places as a means to realize their futile aims and to those who constitute an anomalous state in the Islamic arena and in the region.

New Interior, Trade Ministers Appointed 4 Aug

JN041112 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA) — It was announced here today that Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Shaykhali, minister of higher education and scientific research, has been appointed minister of interior. It has also been decided that Muhammad Mahdi Salih, deputy chief of the President's Office, will be appointed the new minister of trade.

The two ministerial portfolios became vacant following the assignment of Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud and Hasan 'Ali Nassar to full-time work in party and RCC affairs.

Dismissals, Detentions for 'Dereliction of Duty'

JN031143 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jul 87 pp 3, 11

[Text] The RCC has decided to dismiss a number of officers from the Army and to demote others one rank for dereliction of duty, as well as for providing inaccurate information while preparing construction designs for the Republican Guard Combat School.

The following is the text of the RCC decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A, Article 42, of the Constitution, the RCC, in its 28 July session, decided the following:

First, the following officers shall be dismissed from the Army:

1. Major General Hazim Salih Khadir, retired, former director of the Military Housing Directorate.

2. Major General Ihsan Akram Zaynal, director of the Military Construction Directorate.

3. Brigadier General Eng Hashim Ahmad 'Ali, chief of the Design Section at the Military Construction Directorate.

4. Colonel Eng Muzhir Muhammad 'Akul.

Second, the following officers shall be demoted one rank:

1. Colonel Eng Layth Muhammad Jasim, chief of the Sanitary Engineering Department.

2. Colonel Eng Muhammad Salih Muhammad, chief of the Assessment Department.

3. Lieutenant Colonel Zuhayr Yusuf Walid, chief of the Air Conditioning and Electricity Department.

4. Lieutenant Colonel Eng Sa'di Salman 'Abd al-Husayn, chief of the Architecture Department.

5. Lieutenant Colonel Mazin Muhammad 'Abd, chief of the Construction Department.

Third, the defense and finance ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] RCC chairman Saddam Husayn

Saddam Husayn, Armed Forces commander in chief, ordered the officers mentioned in the first paragraph of the decree detained for 1 year and those mentioned in the second paragraph for 3 months.

His Excellency ordered the release of Captain Eng Hazim Taha and Captain Eng Husayn 'Ali Shihab after establishing that they were not involved in preparing the designs.

The Military Housing Directorate took 2 years to select the site [of the school] and to register the plot of land. Had a committee been formed to settle the matter or had one or two persons been authorized to follow up the procedures, work would have been completed within 3 months.

Col Eng Muzhir Muhammad 'Akul is also held responsible in view of the fact that he was in charge of preparing the architectural designs considered the basis for completing the supplementary designs. Col 'Akul did not prepare a definite schedule for completing the work and for the many changes instituted at his direct instructions. It took 2 years for the architectural designs to be completed.

Brig Gen Eng Hashim Ahmad is also held responsible since he headed the Design Section and all the branches affiliated with it. The delay in completing the designs is a sign of weakness in following up the project. Brig Gen Eng Ihsan Akram Zaynal, director of the Military Construction Directorate, did not include the names of department heads in the list of detainees who were directly responsible for preparing the designs.

Communique No 2,765 Notes Combat 2-3 Aug

JN031654 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,765 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces receive 'Id al-Adha while appealing to Almighty God to protect President Saddam Husayn, the leader of its people, the guard of its land, the reviver of its glory, the renewer of its civilization, and the builder of its development, for great Iraq. May God preserve him. Our Armed Forces also ask Almighty God to continue granting us his grace and victory.

At a time when the Khomeyniite scoundrels, the enemies of our country, are transgressing Muslim sanctities and holy places by carrying out riots, sabotage, and sedition — thus disclosing their grudge against Islam and Muslims — our Armed Forces are proud that they remain the faithful guard of Islam and its honorable valuesand of the Islamic nation. In this they embody a sincere belief in Almighty God by performing the holy jihad in defense of justice, virtue, and mankind's noble values. May our Iraq continue to enjoy victory and comprehensive good year after good year under the banner of the prophet's grandson, our beloved leader. A roundup of our brave forces' activities for last night and today follows:

1. Our bold helicopter gunships carried out 14 combat missions against enemy troop concentrations and weapon emplacements, inflicting new losses on the enemy. The helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, a number of enemy soldiers were killed, an ammunition dump was detonated, and an enemy observation post was destroyed.

3. Six enemy soldiers were killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. One of our courageous patrols in the V Army Corps northern sector captured an enemy soldier along with his personal weapon, a GC [not further identified] rifle. Two other soldiers were killed. The patrol returned safely to base.

5. A 60-mm mortar was destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Two enemy soldiers were killed and enemy engineering efforts were halted in the II Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Using long-range artillery, the tyrant Khomeyniite clique shelled residential quarters in the steadfast city of Basra. The shelling damaged a number of houses and civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 August 1987

AL-TADAMUN Interviews Navy Commander on Gulf

PM031333 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
1 Aug 87 pp 19, 20

[Interview with Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Abd Muhammad 'Abdallah by Ahmad 'Abd al-Majid in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd al-Majid] Is it possible for us to learn the new figures and statistics for Iranian naval losses during the war years?

['Abdallah] Our military communiques indicate that Iranian losses at sea have been heavy. Our forces destroyed 57 Iranian oil tankers and merchant ships near Khark Island alone. This is in addition to destroying 63 Iranian tankers and merchant ships near the approaches to Khowr Musa in the northeast Arabian Gulf. Along with these accomplishments, our Navy succeeded in destroying Iranian oil fields in the northern Gulf (Cyrus, Ardeshir, and Nowruz).

We can confidently state that our Navy has so far destroyed 40-50 percent of the Iranian Navy. Their losses can be broken down as follows: 286 maritime targets, including 259 merchant ships and tankers and 25 supply ships in the famous battles of Al-Faw during February 1986. Iran also lost 45 gunboats during battles around the two ports of Al-'Amiq and Al-Bakr at the end of last year.

['Abd al-Majid] Can you give us an idea of the total cost of some of the naval units used in the battles in the Gulf?

['Abdallah] The cost of one frigate is between $150 and $200 million and usually takes 5-6 years to build. The cost of a gunboat equipped with missiles is $25-50 million. In order to build a naval fleet, we will need $4-5 billion to build and fully equip roughly 20 ships.

These figures give an indication of the amount required to construct an effective naval force within a few years. Our leadership has succeeded in achieving this and in considerably developing our naval force's capabilities. Our leadership continues to enhance this progress to ensure absolute supremacy for our Navy, which has decided the military situation at sea in its favor since 1983-84. Our Navy has been able to paralyze Iranian activities in the northern Gulf to the extent that it is now impossible for the Iranian Navy to occupy any target, to protect ships, to adequately safeguard Iranian oil fields, or even to directly engage our naval units.

['Abd al-Majid] What missions are assigned to the Iraqi Navy at present within the framework of the comprehensive confrontation between Iranian and Iraqi forces?

['Abdallah] Our Navy's duties are to repulse any Iranian naval threat to Iraq and the Arab Gulf states and to protect Iraqi economic installations, especially the Al-Bakr and Al-'Amiq Ports. All events of the war confirm that we have generally succeeded in doing this. We have made it impossible for aggression to be aimed at Iraqi ports. We have also delivered destructive blows against the Iranians at sea.

['Abd al-Majid] What sort of naval operations are now occurring between Iraq and Iran?

['Abdallah] The battles between fleets in the Gulf war have ended. What is now occurring are battles between small units due to the short distance between the Iraqi and the Iranian coasts. The Iranians failed in early battles due to poor planning and the inability to confront our Navy. Iranian deterioration both internally and externally also affected various fields, including the military and especially the naval sector.

['Abd al-Majid] What is the reason behind Iran's intensification of operations against Al-'Amiq and Al-Bakr Ports? Are there any military targets?

['Abdallah] These two ports are of strategic importance to Iraq and to the Gulf states as well. They are also relatively near the Iranian coast (60 km). Perhaps the Iranians seek to achieve deployment gains to compensate them — should they succeed in attacking the two ports — for their heavy land, air, and naval losses, as well as make them a greater regional threat than ever before. However, the steadfastness of the two ports' forces has confirmed Iran's failure and the greatness of Iraq's capability. This was clearly demonstrated on 23 June when we succeeded in destroying a maritime target at the approach to Khowr Musa, even though it was protected by three Iranian units equipped with surface-to-surface missiles. Our capability was also confirmed in recent years by our Navy's use of modern weapons against ships and fixed land targets. We additionally succeeded in developing weapons and military equipment used in previous naval battles.

['Abd al-Majid] Iran has often threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz. Do you believe it has the capability to carry out an adventure such as this?

['Abdallah] The Strait of Hormuz is a waterway for international navigation. Therefore, no country has the right to regulate shipping in it. It is certainly impossible for such an adventure to be carried out close to this waterway. Iranian threats are nothing but stupid attempts at blackmail. Besides, this strait does not affect us since we have other coastal outlets. To be accurate, we would state that Iran would be the only loser if it attempted to close the strait.

['Abd al-Majid] What does the planting of mines off the Gulf coast — especially on the approaches to the Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi and the Bahraini coast opposite Iran — mean?

['Abdallah] These practices violate international law and international charters. They constitute clear aggression against the policy of regional states that are not a party to the war. These practices are actions indicating that the Iranian regime has been morally defeated.

No Further Cooperation in Pollard Investigation

TA040417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Israel has announced it will not participate further in the efforts of the U.S. federal prosecutor to investigate the Pollard affair. Jerusalem says it will also not permit other Israelis to be questioned in the case, and Israeli representatives have refused to accept a list of Israelis wanted for questioning in the case submitted by the prosecutor. The list was prepared on the basis of the two investigating panels that looked into the affair here in Israel.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has completed the process of stripping the immunity from prosecution of three Israelis thought central to the affair: Rafi Eytan, Irit Erb, and Yosi Yagur. The Voice of Israel's Washington correspondent says that former Army Chief of Staff Moshe Levi has said he personally is prepared to talk with U.S. prosecutors about the affair, but he has been forbidden to do so by Jerusalem.

Peres Reportedly To Meet Shevardnadze in Sep

TA040459 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] UN sources say that Foreign Minister Peres is to meet his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze in New York at the end of September. The two are to meet informally during the next session of the UN General Assembly. Diplomats say they neither see the meeting as extraordinary or as a new opening toward better relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Shamir Answers Thatcher Letter on Conference

TA031754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a letter to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today. His formula has not changed at all: No to an international conference; yes to direct talks. Mr Shamir's letter is in response to one Margaret Thatcher sent last week urging the prime minister to support the conference idea and thus share the view of President Reagan and herself. Here is our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami with a report on Shamir's letter to Thatcher:

The prime minister is standing firm on his position regarding the peace process. He wrote to Mrs Thatcher today: direct negotiations with Husayn, yes; an international conference, no. Direct negotiations in the Middle East have already been tried in the past. They were tried and even led to a peace agreement with Egypt. An international conference would harm and completely foil any chance of an agreement. The incorporation of the Soviet Union and the PLO in the process would torpedo any chances for a settlement. Thus the prime minister has answered the paragraphs in Margaret Thatcher's letter last week in which she urged him to support the international conference and even promised that the conference would not jeopardize Israel. The British prime minister wrote that Israel would benefit from the incorporation of the Soviet Union by creating the opportunity to bring thousands of Jews to Israel.

In his letter, Mr Shamir replied that the Jewish nation is deeply grateful to her for her activity on behalf of the Jews in the Soviet Union. Mr Shamir also praised the British prime minister's activity against international terrorism.

In conclusion, the prime minister has not changed his mind aboutthe conference, even after the British prime minister's letter. He does not accept her recommendation to support the conference and he continues to opt for direct negotiations. All is as it has been, for the time being at least.

Ceausescu Invites Peres, Shamir to Romania

TA031029 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Aug 87 p A6

[Text] Last Friday, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu sent two messages, one to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and another to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, inviting them for talks in Bucharest soon.

Political circles expect Ceausescu and Shamir to discuss the U.S. Congress move to revoke the preferential status granted to Romanian goods because of Romania's neglect of human rights issues.

In the past, the Israeli lobby in Washington had often taken action to prod the U.S. legislative branch to grant Romania this preferential status, thereby helping ease Romania's dire economic plight.

This time, too, Israel will undoubtedly be prepared to help as best it can and Ceausescu will be advised of this.

MA'ARIV Ponders Invitations

TA031038 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Aug 87 p A10

[Editorial: "Shamir to Romania"]

[Text] The twin invitations sent by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and to Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, to meet him urgently in Bucharest arouse curiosity.

The practice in bilateral relations is that lower-level discussions precede high-level meetings and that sometimes the issues raised by the high-ranking officials are even concluded beforehand by the junior echelons. Not so this time. The Romanian president is not telling what the subject matter is.

Prime Minister Shamir accepted the invitation at once. He recalled a precedent in 1977 when the then Prime Minister Menahem Begin left for a meeting with Ceausescu on the eve of President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. He, too, knew nothing of the purpose of the meeting.

The prime minister's aides see a link between the invitation and the peace process, contemplating two possibilities: One, that

perhaps this time, too, Ceausescu will produce a message from an Arab leader. They will no doubt be disappointed if they discover that this will be yet another Romanian attempt "to sell the PLO to Israel." Any such move would be a waste of time.

The other possibility — which the advisers see as the more likely one — is that Moscow is sending a message. Not many, however, believe this, and we also tend to dismiss it.

Right now it is not very clear why Ceausescu is summoning Messrs Shamir and Peres to his capital. But perhaps the trip is worthwhile even if we suspect that it will not herald a breakthrough.

There is another, hidden, advantage in this. If the two accept the invitation and leave for Romania together, perhaps Ceausescu will succeed where others have failed and reestablish national unity in Israel.

Shamir Greets Muslims, Druze on 'Id al-Adha

TA031646 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1600 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office this evening issued an announcement conveying Prime Minister Shamir's greetings on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha [Feast of Immolation]. The prime minister extended wishes of happiness and economic well-being to the members of the Druze and Muslim communities in Israel. I hope, the prime minister says, that peace between Israel and its neighbors will grow and strengthen on behalf of all regional peoples. I hope the Muslim citizens of Israel who went on a pilgrimage to Mecca will return home safely.

160 West Bank Prisoners Released

TA031404 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Today 160 prisoners, residents of Judaea and Samaria, were released in accordance with a decision by 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, and Efrayim Sne, head of the Civilian Administration. Most of the prisoners had been scheduled to complete their prison sentences. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed comments that the release was implemented on the recommendation of defense elements as a gesture to mark the Muslim festival of the sacrifice ['Id al-Adha] which will take place soon.

Likud, Palestinians Reported To Have Met 'Secretly'

TA040728 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
4 Aug 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Key Likud circles are currently preparing a political plan which seeks to solve the Palestinian problem through a confederation between Israel and the territories. It is possible that Mikha'el Deqel's statement regarding the "transfer" was made against the background of this plan with the aim of torpedoing it.

These circles belong to the Shamir and Arens camps, and tonight they will meet in a private house in Jerusalem to discuss the plan.

Our correspondent has learned that representatives from these camps have secretly met with pro-PLO notables from the territories to discuss the plan. They have prepared a 15-page brochure in which they link the confederation plan to the teachings of Jabotinsky.

This plan was discussed in recent contacts between the Likud and the area village leagues. A convention of Palestinians who support the plan may be held in the Hebron Hills.

Our correspondent reports that last week Labor Party Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah submitted a proposal to the Knesset regarding the establishment of a tripartite confederation between Israel, the territories, and Jordan. His proposal encountered fierce opposition within the Labor Party, the charge being that behind the veil of a confederation hides the Palestinian state.

The various confederation plans are based on the principle that Israel on the one hand and the Palestinians on the other would be able to express their national uniqueness, each side within the 1967 borders, but with the understanding that the border would remain open and economic cooperation agreements would be signed.

PLO Forms Committee To Meet 'Peace-Minded' Israelis

TA041029 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
4 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] The PLO has set up a permanent, high-powered committee to oversee and organize meetings with "peace-minded Israelis," according to sources in Jerusalem.

The committee is composed of the PLO's Executive Committee, Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Mahmud Darwish, a member of Fatah's Executive Committee, Yahya 'Abd al-Razzaq, and Nayif Hawatmeh's deputy, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh.

The decision to establish the committee was taken at a recent meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

The PNC also confirmed the withdrawal of its condition that Israelis involved in PLO-Israeli contacts be "anti-Zionists." The PLO is now willing to meet with any "peace-minded" Israelis, the sources said.

RAKAH To Establish Pro-Conference Front

TA011410 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] The Israeli Communist Party [RAKAH] will initiate the establishment of a political front comprising all the groups that support an international conference on a just peace. Our party affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that at a meeting of the Israeli Communist Party Central Committee today, Knesset

Member Wilner said that there is no difference between the Alignment and the Likud, or between Peres and Shamir. He claimed that even Shim'on Peres' views do not lead to an international conference because he objects to PLO participation in the conference and presents conditions for the participation of the Soviet Union.

Histadrut Accused of 'Secret Ties' With RSA

TA030822 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] MK [Knesset Member] Ran Kohen (Citizens Rights Movement) yesterday accused the Histadrut of maintaining secret ties with South Africa despite the labour federation's pledges in the past to end all contacts with Pretoria.

Kohen, the chairman of his party's faction in the Histadrut, made these charges at yesterday's meeting of the labour federation's executive committee in Tel Aviv.

Kohen claimed that an Israeli company called Iscor bought $25 million of steel and scrap iron from South Africa last year. Iscor's majority shareholders are Koor Industries, the Histadrut- affiliated industrial concern, but 49 per cent of its shares are owned by a South African firm Milrock, which is registered in Switzerland.

Iscor itself, said Kohen, also set up a "paper" company in Switzerland, Talronics, to hide its dealings with South Africa. Talronics has a sister company in Israel — Epitra Hahzakot Ltd. — the majority of whose directors (and major shareholders in Iscor) are the heads of the Histradrut holding company Hevrat Ha'ovdim and Koor Industries, including its general-manager Yesha'yahu Gavish.

Gavish refused to comment last night, saying he had not seen the letter Kohen sent Histadrut secretary-general Yisra'el Qeysar outlining these charges.

In this letter, Kohen also said that Iscor's managing-director and its accountant visited South Africa in May to further the ties between the company and South Africa.

Kohen complained to Qeysar that setting up dummy companies in Switzerland did not tally with the Histadrut's policy of ending ties with South Africa. Kohen called on Qeysar to stop any Histadrut contacts with "this racist state."

Qeysar, at the executive meeting, said he had not yet read Kohen's letter and reiterated the Histadrut's policy of not dealing with South Africa. He added, however, that where the Histadrut still had contractual obligations with South Africam firms, these obligations had to be met until the expiration of the contracts.

New Center Party Announced; Publishes Platform

TA021232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] A new political movement, the Center Movement [Tnu'at Hamerkaz], officially announced its establishment and published its ideological platform today. The new bloc includes Shinuy, the Independent Liberals, and the Liberal Center Party.

Our correspondent Yosi Rivlin reports that at a meeting in Bet Sokolov today, Knesset Member Rubinstein said that the movement will strive to observe closely the rule of law, civilian freedom, and free enterprise. He expressed the hope that in the next elections the new party will win eight Knesset seats.

Composition of Party Detailed

TA030808 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 87 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] The Centre Movement, the new party comprising Shinuy, the Independent Liberal Party (ILP) and dissident Likud Liberals, aims to wrest the balance of power in the Knesset from the religious parties. ILP veteran Moshe Qol made this declaration yesterday, when the three groups signed their merger agreement at Bet Sokolow here.

The three groups will draw up a single list for the next elections, but until then will cooperate rather than unite immediately, it was learned. The ILP, which is part of the Alignment in the present Knesset, will continue as such, and MK [Knesset Member] Yitzhaq Artzi announced that he would not cross over to Shinuy with his Knesset seat unless the Alignment agreed.

Shinuy is clearly the dominant partner of the new alliance, with MK Amnon Rubinstein party chairman, and Shinuy having the first, second, fourth and fifth slates in the united Knesset list.

The ILP has the third, sixth and ninth places. The Likud Liberals, who formed the now-defunct Liberal Centre a year ago, come off worst, with their top man at number seven in the joint list.

The three-man presidium of the new grouping will be headed by Qol, minister of tourism in several Labour-led governments, who will be backed up by Rubinstein and former Likud Liberal Yitzhaq Berman. The movement will have a 31-member central committee. [passage omitted]

MAPAM Submits No-Confidence Motion on Moshavim

TA021117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 gmt 2 Aug 87

[Text] MAPAM has submitted a no-confidence motion against the government because of the moshavim crisis. The motion was explained by saying that the government's policy has damaged production in general and agriculture in particular.

This Wednesday the Knesset will discuss four no-confidence motions against the government; three of them resulting from remarks made by Deputy Minister Mikha'el Deqel [regarding a transfer of Arabs], and one from the moshavim crisis.

Identities of Suspects in Al-Masri Murder Disclosed

TA031126 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] The identities of two members of the squad responsible for the murder of Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri, Albert Bukhris, and border Policeman Jamil al-Faris were disclosed yesterday. They are Mu'ayyid 'Abd al-Rahim Ramad (25), from 'Anabta in Samaria, and Ahmad Abu Sa'id Hannani (31), from the village of Furayqi', also in Samaria. The two confessed to having attempted to kill Hayim Tan'ami, a resident of Massu'a, and Janin Mayor 'Abdallah Lahluh.

Ramad, the more senior member of the squad, is an English literature student at Al-Najah University in Nabulus. He was recruited to the DFLP during a visit to Bangladesh and trained in Syria. He claimed that the order to murder Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri came directly from the DFLP commander, who charged that Al-Masri was cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

Ramad and Hannani set up an ambush for Al-Masri at the entrance to the Nabulus City Hall. When he left his home to go there, Ramad sprang up and shot him in the head at short range, fleeing immediately toward the city center. There Hannani waited for him and drove him back to Al-Najah University as though nothing had happened.

The two terrorists pleaded guilty on all counts and reenacted their crimes approximately 2 weeks ago. They also turned over to the investigators weapons and several IDF-issue hand grenades which they had intended to use in other attacks. Other individuals are under detention in connection with the affair, and the investigation is still under way. No charge sheets have been submitted yet.

Goren on Permits for Pro-Jordanian West Bank Groups

TA311140 Tel 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Jul 87 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Israel will permit a pro-Jordanian party of sorts to operate in the territories. This was implied in remarks made by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, in reply to a question on this issue during a news conference he convened in Tel Aviv yesterday. He said that Israel does not permit a political party proper to operate in the territories. However, if a group is formed and we are convinced that no terrorist elements stand behind it, Israel will permit it to function.

Goren was asked about the veracity of reports that Jordanian supporters in the territories want to organize politically and about Israel's position on this issue. *'Al Hamishmar* published such a report approximately 2 weeks ago, and its release caused the pro-Jordanian group to put off an official announcement about the establishment of a political group. [no Goren response as published]

Regarding the universities which the pro-Jordanians want to establish in the territories, Goren stated that we will approve the requests on this issue if Israeli interests will not be harmed. Our coorespondent notes that the same circles that want to establish the pro-Jordanian party submitted the requests to establish the universities, which are aimed at pushing aside the universities that lean toward the PLO. Our correspondent has also learned that Israel is not enforcing the special decree which gives it the right to intervene in events at the universities. This decree has been a point of dispute between Israel and the universities in the past. [passage omitted]

IDF Unit Slightly Wounds 2 UNIFIL Soldiers

TA040915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Two UNIFIL soldiers from Norway were slightly wounded last night when an IDF force fired at them in the eastern sector of the security strip in southern Lebanon. The IDF spokesman reports that an IDF force noticed suspicious movement near the border of the security strip. The force opened fire at the figures, who turned out to be UNIFIL soldiers on foot in the area. Our forces in the region were not aware of their presence. An Israeli physician treated the two wounded soldiers.

The IDF is investigating the incident. The IDF liaison unit to the United Nations is maintaining close contact with UNIFIL headquarters on this issue.

King Phones Iraqi, Egyptian, Syrian Presidents

JN032003 Amman Television Service in English
1900 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] His majesty the king this evening had telephone conversations with the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He exchanged with the Arab leaders good wishes on 'Id al-Adha, the feast of sacrifice, and views about Arab and Islamic affairs, particularly the recent [incidents] by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca. The leaders voiced their appreciation and support for the Saudi Arabian Government's measures to safeguard the pilgrims. They also expressed their condemnation of the Iranian attempts to tamper with safety and security of Saudi Arabia and the pilgrimage rites.

Omani Commerce, Industry Minister Arrives 1 Aug

JN011249 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, Oman's minister of industry and commerce, arrived in Amman this morning on a brief visit to Jordan. Al-Ghazali told PETRA he will convey a verbal message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to His Majesty King Husayn on developing bilateral ties, particularly in economic fields.

Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the Omani ambassador to Jordan greeted the Omani minister at the airport.

Delivers Message, Departs

JN011529 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, Oman's minister of industry and commerce. The Omani minister conveyed a message to his majesty from Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. The message dealt with ways to promote relations between the two fraternal countries, particularly in the economic field. The message falls within the framework of the continuous consultations between the two leaders.

Al-Ghazali left Amman today. He was seen off by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

JORDAN TIMES Investigates Amman Water Pollution

JN021140 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
2 Aug 87 p 15

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Excerpt] On Wednesday July 8, 1987, the government accepted the resignations of Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) president Mundhir Haddadin and Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Muhammad Salih Kilani. The decision came immediately after it became public that water pumped from the Dayr 'Alla project in the Jordan Valley for domestic use in the Amman area was polluted and deemed not suitable for human consumption. The reports, followed by the simultaneous resignations, created confusion among citizens who were concerned for their health.

Over the last two weeks, the *Jordan Times* conducted a thorough investigation into the water pollution problem which included interviews with officials responsible for water management in the country, water treatment specialists and experts, physicists and chemists, to assess the magnitude of the possible damage caused by the consumption of polluted water in the Amman area and to ascertain the present water situation in the Jordan Valley area. Most of the people who agreed to speak to the *Jordan Times* insisted on anonymity. The *Jordan Times* constructed the story in the light of its investigation and independent research and came up with the following report:

On June 16, 1987, Mr. Kilani was notified of the presence of impurities in water pumped from Dayr 'Alla into Amman. Subsequently, WAJ engineers reported that some water from the King Talal Dam, which was proven unsuitable for domestic use, had been channeled into the East Ghor Canal whose water is pumped to Amman after treatment at a water treatment plant at Zayy. The King Talal Dam reservoir's water was for long limited to agricultural use. On June 20, after making certain of the validity of those reports, the WAJ president contacted the JVA (whose president was then outside Jordan), and spoke to Muhammad Bani Hani, who at the time was JVA secretary general. Mr. Bani Hani reportedly said he was not aware of any channeling of the King Talal dam water but promised to investigate the issue. On June 23, Mr. Bani Hani called Mr. Kilani to confirm him [as published] that some of the polluted water from the King Talal Dam had been channeled into the East Ghor Canal and that Mr. Haddadin had authorised it. A decison was then taken to stop the dam water reaching the East Ghor Canal and the prime minister was informed of the incident. By then, it had become public knowledge that the Amman area residents had been drinking polluted water. But the extent of the health risk involved was not yet known.

Subsequently, the prime minister [Zayd al-Rifa'i] summoned a Cabinet meeting on July 1. It was attended by Mr. Kilani, Mr. Haddadin, Minister of Planning Tahir Kan'an, Industry and Trade Minister Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, other Cabinet members and former JVA president 'Umar 'Abdallah Dakhqan at whose presidency the Dayr 'Alla project was conceived.

During the meeting, Mr. al-Rifa'i questioned Mr. Haddadin and Mr. Kilani (who clashed in their assessment of the water situation) and then asked them to resign so as to allow for the establishment of a water and irrigation ministry to unite water resources management in the country. A decision was also taken to immediately cease the pumping of water from the Dayr 'Alla project. The prime minister was told by Mr. Kilani that the decision would cause a water shortage in the Amman area but not exceeding five per cent.

According to well-placed officials, during the Cabinet meeting, Dr. Haddadin conceded that he had authorised the channeling

of some of King Talal Dam water into the East Ghor Canal and that his judgement was that the Zayy water treatment plant was equipped to treat such pollutants as existed in the dam reservoir.

The prime minister then decided to commission water specialists from the British Thames Water Authority to carry out studies on all water resources in the Jordan Valley area over the year's four seasons. Since 1977, several similar studies have been carried out by local and foreign water experts.

According to several doctors interviewed by the *Jordan Times*, hundreds of people have been admitted into hospitals and clinics in the Amman area over last month and this month with cases ranging from stomach disturbances to severe diarrhoea. The doctors, who asked not to be identified, said that judging from tests they carried out, many of the cases were a result of consuming polluted water. One physician said that there were cases of parasites in stomach including balharzia, ascaris and amibiasis, causing acute diarrhoea, dehydration among children, and inflammation of the digestive system from fungy algae. However, the doctors could not confirm a direct link between the water pollution incident and the observed cases, "Let's say the number of people coming to hospital with similar problems over the last few weeks is very unusual," one of the physicians said.

According to a water expert, the East Ghor Canal water was also not safe for domestic use. He said it contained bromine, which, when mixed with chlorine used for chlorination by the water treatment plant, produced chlorophorm and bromophorm which are carcinogenic chemical inducers of cancer. He said as many as five per 2000 people could develop cancer within their lifetime from drinking water polluted with the level detected in the East Ghor Canal. Residents of the Amman area have been drinking water from the canal since November last year.

The expert said the number of people hurt depended on the shape of the treatment plant, which is believed to have been severely damaged by algae in the water from the King Talal Dam. Phenol compounds from industrial waste detected in the same waters are also inducive of cancer. It was not immediately known whether excessive chlorination, which could have had [as published] produced carcinogenic chemicals when interacting with bromine, had reached the point where it became poisonous.

Well-informed water treatment specialists, when specifically asked to assess the damage, refused to give further details. "We have given our reports to the government, and it is up to the government to handle it from there. There is no need to plant fear in people at this point," one water expert said. The Ministry of Health, contacted by the *Jordan Times*, refused comment on the ground that the pollution problem was the responsibility of the WAJ. Speaking through his secretary, Health Ministry Under-Secretary Sulayman Subayhi (the minister, Dr. Zayd Hamzah, was ouside the country) said "this is the responsibility of the water authority and not the ministry."

The ministry earlier sought to dispel citzens' fears that they had been drinking poisonous water. There had been an almost total blackout on the water pollution affair since it broke out last month. No precautious measures have been advised by the ministry nor by WAJ. Instead, there were assurances that odour, taste and colour present in the water were not harmful. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Sends Communique, Video of 2 Hostages

LD010753 Paris Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] An echo of the Franco-Iranian crisis has come in the form of renewed threats from the Islamic Jihad in Beirut. It is this organization which holds as prisoners diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, as well as Jean-Paul Kauffmann and Michel Seurat, whose execution was announced in March 1986. Yesterday the group sent a communique accompanied by a video-cassette showing two of the prisoners, Jean-Paul Kauffmann and Marcel Carton, to an international news agency in Beirut.

In this communique, the Islamic Jihad reproaches France for the aggressive nature of its policy and the delays in negotiating the hostage business. On the poor-quality video recording, Jean-Paul Kauffmann and Marcel Carton, clearly tired, each read a fairly similar text: What is the government doing? Where is national solidarity? We will not escape this nightmare without concessions; the show must end — such are the many calls sent to the French Government and to their families. The Foreign Ministry last night refused to make any comment.

And then there is this news relayed by *Liberation* this morning: According to the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Jacques Chirac asked Tehran authorities before 16 March [date of general elections last year] to delay settling the hostage affair until he had acceded to the prime minister's office. It is to some extent the revival of a rumor, but it comes from the mouth of one of the most important Iranian political personalities.

Islamic Movement Threatens Saudi Interests

NC041013 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
3 Aug 87 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization has threatened revenge against the Saudi royal family in retaliation for last Friday's events in Mecca in which 402 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed.

The threat came in a typewritten statement which the organization sent to a foreign news agency in Beirut accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson. The statement said: This massacre will not go unpunished. It added: The United States planned this massacre. We are determined to confront America, the biggest satan, and other leading terrorists in the world. In light of this massacre, we see no alternative but to amputate the hands frequently used by the United States. In our view, Al Sa'ud [Saudi royal family] members are now in direct confrontation with Muslims following the revelation of their true nature. Every drop of blood shed will turn into a volcano. which will cause an upheaval in this sacred land that will uproot those who dominate it. The Islamic nation will never forget what has happened. The statement asserted:We consider the United States primarily responsible for this massacre and it will therefore bear the consequences of its directives to its surrogates in the region. We warn Al Sa'ud members against continuing to worship and yield to the United States; otherwise, the fire will destroy their homes and chairs and they will be struck by the sword of honor. This unprecedented massacre, which was studied and planned in advance, is the ugliest thing the mind can conceive. The hurried support by Mubarak, Husayn,Hassan II, and their masters in the West are clear evidence of their involvement in that act, which coincides with the infidel forces' move to confront Muslims.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolutionary Movement [Al-Harakah al-Thawriyah Al-Islamiyah — IRM] has also issued a statement in which it affirmed that the blood of Muslims will not be wasted and that this massacre will not be overlooked. The Saudi authorities, the statement added, must stop their harassments, facilitate the pilgrims' affairs, and immediately treat the wounded.

The movement declared the following "in response to this massacre":

1. Muslims should avoid all Saudi airplanes as they are now considered to be unsafe;

2. Saudi embassies, consulates, and diplomats throughout the world are targets; therefore, Muslims and all friendly and allied peoples should not approach them;

3. Saudi banks, companies, and cultural and trade interests are a target. These facilities must be evacuated and steps must be taken as quickly as possible to keep all citizens and possessions away from them;

4. All Saudi police and security posts, garrisons, and civilian and military facilities in Riyadh are targets that should be avoided; and

5. Oil facilities, refineries, and export ports are considered hazardous areas and workers must leave them for their own safety.

Explosion Near Saudi Airline Office Causes Damage

NC031918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] A small explosive device went off under a red BMW bearing license number 2002 at approximately 2120 tonight. The car belongs to Isma'il Ahmad Hamadah, an employee of the *Al-Nahar* newspaper. Itwas parked outside the Saudi Airlines office, opposite the Tourism Ministry. The explosion caused only material damage.

Delegation to Sweden for Salibi Extradition Talks

NC041209 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Judge Walid Ghamrah left for Sweden today at the head of a military delegation that will hold negotiations with Swedish officials regarding Lebanese national Elie Salibi. Judge Ghamrah had issued a warrant for Salibi's arrest in connection with the assassination of Prime Minister Karami.

Dr Edmond Rabbat [not further identified] explained to the Voice of Lebanon that the Lebanese delegation will conduct

negotiations with Swedish authorities for Salibi's extradition. He said that there is big legal hurdle between negotiations and an actual extradition. The negotiations will decide whether the Swedish authorities hand Salibi over to the Lebanese delegation.

Amal's Birri Discusses Camps, Unification Front

JN310923 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
29 Jul 87 p 13

[Interview with Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement and Lebanese minister of state for the south and reconstruction, by correspondent Husayn Hamiyah; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Al-Khalij*: Hundreds of families that have been deported from the Tyre camps have discussed the siege of these camps.

Birri: Instead of asking me this question [as published], I would like to inform you that a group of Arab and international correspondents left for southern Lebanon today. They will see whether the alleged siege and deportations are true. In fact, 'Arafat supporters worked out a scheme for assassinations and partially implemented it against several south Lebanese leaders. Approximately 17 or 18 other individuals were also placed on a list. However, the Amal Movement managed to arrest the tools of this scheme, including Lebanese and Palestinians. After the assassination network was disclosed, they moved to intensify the atmosphere in the area east of Sidon.

Talking about the area east of Sidon, I ask: Why haven't the Palestinians withdrawn? In the second round of the camps war they demanded that the siege of the Al-Rashidiyah camp be lifted if only for 3 days to facilitate a withdrawal from that area. The siege on all camps has been lifted; therefore, why do they remain in the area east of Sidon outside the camps with vehicles and artillery? In fact, there is no siege of the camps. The media in Tunis and other areas say that the Beirut camps are besieged. I ask you: Is there a siege in Beirut? Is there an Amal Movement element around the Beirut camps? Aren't the Syrian brothers located there? On the contrary, there is ongoing fortification in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah by 'Arafat supporters. Amal is no longer present around the Beirut camps. [passage omitted]

Al-Khalij: Will the effects of the volatile situation in the area east of Sidon extend to the Beirut camps?

Birri: I do not believe that this is possible for they know that the Syrians, not Amal, are located there. What is demanded is that the agreements be implemented and withdrawal achieved from the area east of Sidon. Only then will all volatile situations finally end. In the Unification and Liberation Front [ULF] we announced the formation of a joint operations room to resist occupation. Hence, there has been a solution for the issue of fighting and resistance. But what if there is insistence upon staying in the area east of Sidon and on the coastal road? I currently have information that at least 1,000 Palestinian fighters are in the Al-Jiyah area and on the coastal road leading to Sidon. What are these fighters doing there? If there is insistence on deployment on the coastal road and also on returning the weapons situation to what it was prior to 1982, I say there will be no stability among the Lebanese people. This issue does not only concern the Amal Movement, since it is neither present in Al-Jiyah nor on the coastal road in Al-Na'imah. In fact, there are large numbers of gunmen there and they will create problems with the inhabitants of the area similar to those that occasionally occur with Sidon citizens. The Palestinian must decide whether his true intention is to liberate Palestine or to liberate Lebanon from the Lebanese

Al-Khalij: In this context, I would like to ask: Are the parties to the ULF governed by the same policy while tackling the Palestinian-Lebanese relationship?

Birri: The ULF's resolutions and charter, declared a few days ago, are clear in this regard. They provide for not returning to the pre-1982 situation, nonadherence to the Cairo agreement, and the confrontation of 'Arafat's rightist course. They also frankly and clearly urge withdrawal from the area east of Sidon. These issues must be implemented. If not, what are the steps to be implemented?

Al-Khalij: You mentioned a joint operations room. Can the Palestinians join?

Birri: Yes, if the agreements related to the area east of Sidon are implemented. It is the Arabs' right to fight and to defend southern Lebanon, which is Arab territory.

Al-Khalij: In light of past bitter experience with fronts, which were stillborn, do you believe that the ULF will be effective?

Birri: I know some do not believe the front will be able to attain its objectives. However, the ULF must succeed for the following reasons:

First, I believe that this is the last attempt. If it fails, one can no longer have confidence in a collective action.

Second, national action is the only course that can end sectarianism, racism, and regionalism. The ULF is the only vehicle currently available to overcome all of these ailments.

Third, there is an actual onslaught against Lebanon's Arab affiliation by the Israeli organic extension represented by the Lebanese forces under Samir Ja'ja'. There is an Israeli protectorate in the eastern part of Beirut. It is protected by the Lebanese legitimacy which bestows international protection on it. This protectorate cannot be handled and confronted through plans exported from abroad whose objectives are similar to what the Lebanese forces are seeking to achieve. That's why a comprehensive national action is needed to enhance this confrontation. One must now discard sectarianism for national action. In the pre-Israeli withdrawal stage, Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri sought the assistance of their respective communities to confront Israel and they succeeded. But now this community-based approach poses a threat. One must now seek a genuine national framework while learning a lesson from past mistakes committed by national action before 1982.

If the parties in the ULF can amalgamate themselves in the front and in national action without scoring points, then the front will succeed. Otherwise, the entire homeland, not only the front, will be the loser.

Al-Khalij: Will a U.S.-Syrian dialogue have a positive impact on Lebanon?

Birri: The United States is backtracking in its relations with Syria. Thus far, I have not pinpointed an accord on Lebanon. To my knowledge, there is no U.S.- Syrian accord on Lebanon. We were told the recent U.S.-Syrian meeting dealt with Karami's assassination, the question of a national Lebanese accord, and the need to punish those who perpetrated the assassination. I have not sensed that there is an Arab-U.S. accord on Lebanon.

Al-Khalij: U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Kelly believes the recent UN Security Council resolution on the Gulf war will inevitably have a positive impact on Lebanon. Why?

Birri: Kelly and the U.S. Administration believe that this resolution will end the Iraq-Iran war. I believe the opposite is true. Some say the UN Security Council and the big powers will impose sanctions on Iran if it does not abide by the resolution. If this is the case, why hasn't the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on Israel, which has refused to implement Resolution 425 on southern Lebanon since 1978?

The purpose of the recent UN Security Council resolution is not to halt the war; it is a cover for a new presence in the Arab Gulf and an excuse for hoisting the U.S. flag over the region.

Al-Khalij: The Amal Movement issued a statement in which it voiced its stand on the UN Security Council resolution.

Birri: The statement was issued by the "faithful resistance" within the Amal Movement. The Amal Movement's stand is only expressed by its Central Information Bureau or its Political Bureau.

Al-Khalij: Like Hizballah, have you not staged demonstrations against this resolution?

Birri: No, we did not stage demonstrations because we are not against the UN Security Council. I also believe that the Iranians are not against the UN Security Council. If they were, they would not have representatives in the United Nations and its General Assembly. The Iranians are against U.S. policy in the region.

Al-Khalij: Do you believe that solutions to the hostage issue have become farfetched following the issuance of the resolution and the developments it may entail?

Birri: I am absolutely against the taking of hostages as a means and form of struggle. Such a struggle will not bring about a solution. [passage omitted]

Assails Some Front Members

NC031657 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has accused members of the Unification and Liberation Front of assisting Palestinians. He said: We blame some comrades of this front, for they have assisted the Palestinians, albeit silently, in staying east of Sidon. He added that these comrades have not honored their commitments toward the need for the [Palestinian] withdrawal and have thus failed to turn this painful page between us and the Palestinian brothers. Birri, however, did not name any of these comrades.

Birri has also threatened to torpedo all constitutional establishments in the absence of a national accord before the presidential elections.

Junblatt Addresses Progressive Youth Congress

NC011438 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Speech by PSP leader Walid Junblatt at the opening session of the Fifth General Congress of the Progressive Youth Organization in B'aqlin on 1 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades and honorable guests: In light of the Israeli occupation of the south and the fascist Phalangist occupation of the north, and in view of the need to establish a comprehensive civilian, political, economic, and security administration in the areas liberated from the bayonets of the Lebanese Army and its agents, we have deemed it necessary to form this militant alliance. We formed this alliance to rectify the national Lebanese-Palestinian relationship, rebuilding it on a clear basis that will put an end to the devasting war which has destroyed both the Palestinian and Lebanese homelands. You all know that it was from this platform that we said no to divesting the Palestinian people in Lebanon of their arms [applause] and yes to the establishment of a national Lebanese-Palestinian relationship of struggle to confront the enemies of Lebanon at home and abroad. I now frankly say that, following the Algiers conference, we had great hopes that the PLO would return to the proper national and patriotic fold and that the road to Palestine would be opened via Moscow and Damascus. Regrettably, however, it appears that some PLO officials still pin their hopes on the Camp David accords. Therefore, to prevent the exploitation of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in a new and devastating war, we must condemn all suspicious Lebanese-Palestinian moves so as to emerge from this destructive whirpool, correct the course of our march, and unite the Palestinian and national Lebanese rifles to confront the Israel in the north [the Phalangists] and Israel itself in the south. [passage omitted]

The problems and duties facing the Lebanese national Arab and progressive youth are enormous and varied. We have two options in Lebanon: Either the Christian Zionist plan succeeds, involving us in new crusades; or the national Arab progressive plan succeeds, enabling us to emerge from the whirpool of the civil war, expel the occupiers of the south, destroy the sectarian Phalangist regime, build a progressive and democratic Arab

Lebanon, and consolidate a strategic relationsip with Syria separate from Western imperialist alliances.

There are several other issues which were mentioned earlier. However, I want to mention two or more important ones. We had hoped and continue to hope that the new Unification and Liberation Front will take the qualitative step needed to confront the Army, the Phalangists, and Israel in the south. We are surprised that some comrades in this front remain silent about the law [allocating additional funds to the Army] published by the godfather [the Chamber of Deputies speaker] yesterday. The additional guns or tanks given to the Army or the Phalangists will not spare the suburb, Ra's al-Nab', the south, Tripoli, or the mountain. The Army and the Phalangists will not discriminate; they will kill everybody, en masse or separately. The recent crime of Rashid Karami's assassination is proof of this. We hope that this front will have more credibility and will adopt a clear stand on the Army, because we know certain officers have interests in the promulgation of this law. Some of the officers who participated in the destruction of the southern suburb have inadvertently become patriotic.

We approve, in principle, the convocation of the international conference. We cannot reject it, but we do not believe that current Arab conditions permit progressive nationalist Arabs to participate in the conference from a position of strength. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Gulf war, we adhere to the stand, which I recently explained, about the need for solidarity with the Iranian people and leadership to confront the new imperialist crusade. There is a great difference between the UN resolution, although incomplete, on ending the war and the dispatch of fleets to surround Iran — its people and leadership — and surrounding real, progressive Islam. [applause] [passage omitted]

Syrians Bring Fatah Uprising Fighters Into Shatila

NC041208 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that Syrian forces stationed in Al-Biqa' have in the past few days been bringing fighters belonging to the Fatah Uprising Movement, led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], into Shatila camp, along with large quantities of arms. This has triggered tension between Yasir 'Arafat loyalists and the armed Palestinians who have been brought in from Al-Biqa' and Syria. According to the same information, Damascus takes the view that the situation in the Shatila camp favors 'Arafat, and it wishes to create a balance between the two parties.

Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam on Mecca Events, Gulf War

LD031849 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 3 IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam elaborated on recent Saudi massacre of Hajj pilgrims in Mecca, at a press conference here Sunday.

Sheykh ol-Eslam said Iranian pilgrims only chanted "Death to the U.S. and Death to the Zionist Regime" slogans, and said world Muslims should pay careful attention to the issue.

On Iran's reaction to the carnage, he said Iranian nation has always pursued a policy of supporting the oppressed masses and punishing the tyrants. "But at the moment 50 million Iranian Muslims are worried that their 150,000 pilgrims are being held as hostages by Saudi regime".

Asked about Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks on freeing the holy sanctuaries, Sheykh ol-Eslam answered that Muslims are awakened and aware of Saudi rulers inability to run the sanctuaries. The holy Koran explicitly says that God's house (Ka'ba) is a place where Muslims' problems like the issue of Palestine and Afghanistan should be discussed.

Thanking the Syrian president and Government for their efforts on the issue, Sheykh ol-Eslam said our Syrian brothers have expressed condolence over the Mecca incident and are working to resolve the issue. He also said he had discussed the 'excellent' Tehran-Damascus relations with Syrian officials.

The Iranian minister furthermore said the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf threatens Iran and said if the U.S. attempts to attack Iran, it will be given a good lesson which it will never forget. The "Persian Gulf is no cinema in which Americans led by a film actor President can enter," he added.

Iran, continued Sheykh ol-Eslam, rejected the recently issued Security Council resolution because it did not accord with the Islamic Republic conditions. Iran will not attend the council's session as long as it does not condemn the aggressor, he said.

He also referred to the Soviet proposal to end the war on shipping and said Iran supports the proposal since it was similar to that of Iran. The U.S. is better advised to follow this policy and withdraw from the Persian Gulf, Sheykh ol-Eslam said.

Polish Delegation Concludes Visit 3 Aug

JN031448 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1120 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus, 3 Aug (SANA) — A Polish delegation led by Tadeusz Mlynczak, chairman of the Polish Democratic Party and deputy chairman of the Council of State, left Damascus this morning following a 1-week visit to Syria at the invitation of the Progressive National Front Central Command. In a predeparture statement, the Polish delegation expressed great appreciation for Syria's enormous achievements under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, President Hafiz al-Asad. The delegation affirmed Poland's support for Syria's just struggle against its enemies.

The Polish delegation held several meetings with officials in the party and the Progressive National Front. During these meetings, the two sides affirmed the need to continue to exchange delegations with the aim of promoting the existing relations of cooperation and friendship between the parties and countries in all fields.

Government Issues Statement to Rebel Chieftains

LD012145 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] The regular session of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, chaired by Haji Muhammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium, was held this afternoon at Golkhana Palace, the headquarters of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

In order to regulate, organize, and plan the activities of the local forces composed of clans and border tribes, the armed groups who came over to the government, as well as other voluntary forces, which will be formed under the national reconciliation policy; to secure the stability, consolidation, and expansion of national sovereignty; and to ensure peaceful conditions for the public's work in all relevant fields, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council approved a provision on the local forces of the DRA Armed Forces. The measure includes 6 chapters and 36 articles.

On the basis of Article 44 of the DRA Basic Principles, the Revolutionary Council Presidium approved a law on the method of the acquisition of debt in 6 chapters and 56 articles. It commissioned the Ministry of Justice, the local executive committees of the People's Delegates Council of Kabul City, and the provinces to take the necessary measures to fill out the legal departments with expert cadres.

The participants at today's session of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council discussed a proposal by the Standing Commission of the Revolutionary Council on Foreign Affairs. The proposal concerns the PDPA Central Committee resolution, dated 10 June 1987, on the spread of revolutionary Afghanistan's righteousness, the policy of national reconciliation, and its serious and growing strength. A resolution was then issued on the matter.

The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council also considered the award of DRA medals and badges to a number of deserving persons, as well as suspending the remaining term of imprisonment, reducing sentences, and discontinuing legal proceedings against a number of prisoners. It issued separate resolutions in each case.

This session of the Revolutionary Council Presidium also included a discussion of several organizational issues.

The Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council also approved a message from the DRA Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers to the leaders of the armed opposition groups within the country. The text is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. All Muslims are brothers; make peace among brothers.

Message from the DRA Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers addressed to the chieftains of the armed opposition groups within the country:

Dear brothers and compatriots: As you are aware, the DRA Government is following a policy of national reconciliation as the only rational and humanitarian way to stop the war, bloodshed, and fratricide and create a calm and peaceful atmosphere in our historic homeland.

Since the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, the government has taken measures to halt the war and fratricide and to open a channel for contact and talks with the chieftains of the armed groups. These measures include a pardon for prisoners, a unilateral cease-fire and its extension for another 6 months, decrees on the restitution of property belonging to the returnees, finding work for returnees, writing off the debts of peasants who have returned, and the cancellation of debts from income tax for the returnees. They also include the decree regulating the new relationship between land and water, which allows the sale, purchase, lease, or rent of land and fixes the limit of land ownership up to 100 and above 100 jeribs [as heard], the Political Parties Law, and the draft constitution. That document, which reflects the sociopolitical and economic interests of classes, nationalities, strata, and groups, proclaims the sacred religion of Islam as the religion of Afghanistan. In addition, there was the announcement that the other side in the reconciliation process could hold posts and positions up to the premiership and take part in the coalition government. There was the proposal to change the name of the state, and dozens of other actions.

In continuation of these steps, as you know, Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, announced an extension of the cease-fire on 14 July. He also declared that a number of government positions would be made available to the other side involved in the reconciliation in order to allow them to fill high-level government posts. Following this announcement, the DRA Government now proposes such posts as sub-governor [a'laqadari], district governor, major district governor, and various departments in the local administrative unit. If they want, they can propose new districts, including provinces and their respective departments,to the other side in the reconciliation process in return for taking part in local government.

Nothing in Afghanistan's traditions, history, customs, Islamic shariah, policy, or rational mind dictates a resumption of war over calls for reconciliation. Clearly, recourse to war in the face of such calls for reconciliation is a great sin from the viewpoint of the sacred religion of Islam.

We are not saying that you have no differences with the government; undoubtedly you do. However, let us solve them with reason, not swords. You have seen that in the last 9 years, our problems have not been solved with the sword.

The national reconciliation policy and the country's constitution, which is one of reconciliation, provide the best guarantee for the peaceful solution of all differences. Why did the Law on Political Parties come into force? So you can join the party of your choice and publish your views in the party's newspaper. It took effect so that you could take an equal part in the country's sociopolitical and economic life. However, if the artillery and machineguns continue to fire and the smell of gunpowder fouls the nation's air, then we will not be able to hear each other's voice or see each other's eyes.

The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Government give authority to you brothers, the armed opposition

groups, to form local departments and maintain security in your villages, subdistricts, and districts. You should inform your respective provincial officials, so that they may organize the dispatch of assistance in accordance with your needs.

If the formation of districts or subdistricts is difficult due to the existence of other armed opposition groups, then the share of each in proportion to the number of groups should be taken into account.

Brothers, compatriots, why are we addressing you? The answer is clear: For the last 9 years, which have been years of pressure, you have borne the brunt of the difficulties and hard days. You have been fighting for those who are not in the country themselves. You know better who these people are and what a comfortable life they have set up for themselves and for their families. However, our families, children, and beloved ones are burning in the fires they have ignited. Look whose home is being hit by bullets, missile shells, artillery fire, and machineguns. See whose son and family is being martyred -- mine and yours. How many of the leaders on the other side of the border have lost a son or a loved one? You and I have tolerated the pain and sorrow of the last 9 years of war and fratricide. Our families and our pure and innocent children have tolerated it — not those sitting in a foreign country giving you orders to murder and destroy your villages, orchards, and plantations and those of your compatriots. Why do you want to commit suicide on their orders?

Dear brothers, you who have put the rifle on your shoulder on the command of this one or that: Have you ever thought for a second about the future of your sons and family? Why do you, by killing and waging war on your countrymen, create hostility toward your sons, and among the villagers and the people of your district and province? Why do you sow the seeds of hostility and retaliation for years to come? How long will you live in mountains, dank, dark and smoky caves, far from the love of your family and your loved ones for the benefit of a small minority? Have you fogotten your village, land, family, and your sons? Do your children not have the right to paternal love?

In order to implement the policy of national reconciliation, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Couoncil of Ministers invite you, brothers, the chieftains of the armed groups,to create, for yourselves, government sovereignty in your respective units, maintain their security and peace, and proclaim your village and zone as regions of peace. The DRA Government will render all necessary assistance to you.

[Signed] The Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Decree Issued on Pardoning, Releasing Prisoners

LD030631 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Decree issued by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium on the pardoning of prisoners on the occasion of Id al-Adha]

[Text] To mark the great cause of national reconciliation in the country and on the occasion of the arrival of Id al-Adha, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, in accordance with Paragraph 6, Article 43, of the DRA Basic Principles, approves:

Article 1: The following convicts are to be pardoned from serving the remaining term of their prison sentences without consideration of their crime, the term of conviction, or the time completed:

1. All convicts who are 60 years of age or over.

2. All convicts whose remaining term in prison is 1 year or less.

3. Convicts who have severe diseases, recognized by an authorized medical commission.

Article 2: The instructions of this decree concerning those who are ill with severe diseases is not applicable to convicts whose casescome under Article 2 of Decree No. 89, dated 24 May 1887, of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

Article 3: The age of the convicts included in Paragraph 1, Article 1, of this decree is determined by the identity card of the convict or in accordance with the opinion of an authorized medical commission and the commission that will be appointed to implement this decree.

Article 4: This decree comes into effect as of this date of its approval and is to be published in the official gazette.

'Extremists' Kill 4, Damage Mosque in Paktia Attack

LD021904 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Criminals belonging to opposition extremist groups utilized incendiary ground-to-ground missiles the night before last and plunged into mourning a number of our compatriot families in Paktia Province. They attacked the residential areas of Sayd Karam District in Paktia province. As a result, the Bazazan village mosque, which contains several volumes of the holy Koran and religious books, was set on fire.

According to a BIA report, the shrine of Usman Khel and Wani was hit and damaged by ground-to-ground missiles during this attack.The report adds that four of our compatriots, who were visiting the shrine at the time of the attack, were martyred. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Herat, Paktia Offensives Reported

BK030142 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin killed 29 Soviet-Kabul troops in the Ghurian area of Herat Province in two recent clashes. Mujahidin attacked many Soviet-Kabul bases in the area, killing 20 soldiers and wounding many others. They also damaged three tanks. In another operation, mujahidin killed nine Soviet-Kabul soldiers and captured two others with their weapons.

According to Kabul radio, four persons were killed by mujahidin missile attacks in a village of Paktia Province.

36 Soviet-Kabul Troops Killed

BK021112 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, at least 36 Soviet-Kabul troops are reported killed recently during fighting with mujahidin in Balkh, Parvan, and Paktia Provinces. A Soviet helicopter was also shot down, and its pilot and crew were killed.

Ershad Returns Controversial Bill to Parliament

BK011138 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 1 Aug 87

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 1 (AFP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Saturday sent a controversial district council bill back to Parliament for reconsideration, three weeks after its passing sparked bloody anti-government unrest. The decision, reported by the *BSS News Agency*, came on the eve of a fresh general strike called by the opposition Awami League to press for Mr Ershad's resignation.

In a letter to parliamentary speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Mr Ershad said there was "scope for further and detailed discussion on the bill" before he could sign it into law, BSS reported. The bill, passed July 12, calls for military representatives to sit for the first time on the nation's 64 influential district boards.

Opposition leaders denounced it as a revival of military influence in the running of Bangladesh, eight months after Mr Ershad lifted martial law, and they demanded that the president resign.

Demonstrations and general strikes broke out, included an aborted march by 20,000 people Thursday on Mr Ershad's offices here, and at least 11 people have been killed in clashes with police.

In an interview before Saturday's announcement, opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed said MP's from her Awami League alliance would not return to parliament if the bill was sent back for reconsideration. "We are on the street in a movement to oust the government, and we will join hands with other opposition groups to achieve this common objective," she told the Bengali-language *Khabar* newspaper.

Sheikh Hasina on Thursday had announced Sunday's six-hour strike against Mr Ershad, who came to power as an Army general in a 1982 bloodless coup. The president's Jatiya Party has rejected the call as "childish," noting that the strike would come nine days after a 54-hour work stoppage that virtually paralyzed Dhaka and most other parts of this mainly Moslem nation of 104.1 million people.

One Dhaka newspaper said the strike might not draw as much popular support as previous ones, coming amidst torrential monsoon rains and flooding that have left about 100 dead by unofficial count.

Sources close to the Awami League and a leftist coalition headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party said Sheikh Hasina and BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] leader Begum Khaleda Zia were in touch and giving second thoughts to Sunday's strike. The sources said the two leaders were considering whether to postpone the strike until after Eid-ul-Azha, a major Moslem festival Thursday. No immediate confirmation was available.

The most recent anti-government action was on Thursday, when Sheikh Hasina led 20,000 marchers towards the Presidential Secretariat in Dhaka, planning to lay seige to it.

The march stopped peacefully half-way to its destination, police and witnesses said. But in an outbreak of violence afterwards, one person was killed and others injured and arrested when protesters tried to break through a police cordon around Bangabhavan, the presidential palace.

Assents to 7 Bills

BK011555 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] The president has given his assent to the seven bills passed by the parliament during the last session. The bills are: the Bangladesh Biman Corporation Amendment Bill; the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill; the Presidential Election Amendment Bill; the Public Demands Recovery Amendment Bill; the University Laws Amendment Bill; the Members of Parliament, Salaries, and Allowances Second Amendment Bill; and the Rajshahi Municipal Corporation Bill. The president has sent back the Local Government District Council bill 1987 to the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] for reconsideration.

Muslim League Demands Ershad Resignation

BK031409 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh Muslim League demanded on Tuesday the immediate release of all political leaders and all others arrested in connection with the recent hartal.

In a resolution adopted at a workers' meeting of the party with its chief Kazi Abdul Kader in the chair, the Muslim League condemned the repressive actions of the Government against the functionaries of the employees and the workers unions in different organisations.

The part demanded the withdrawal of the show cause notice served upon the *Daily Banglar Bani*.

Meanwhile, the other faction of the Muslim League led by Mr. Kamruzzaman Khan appealed to the political alliances and parties to chalk out a common course of action for the democratic movement.

Meanwhile, the Six-Party Alliance in a workers meeting held on Tuesday with Mr. Oali Ahad in the chair demanded the dissolution of the the Parliament and the resignation of Parliament and the resignation of President Ershad. The Alliance will hold a rally in front of the HBFC [expansion unknown] building on July 30 at 4 p.m.

Hasina Appeals to People

BK031417 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jul 87 pp 1,8

[Text] The Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, urged the people from all walks of life to make the programmes of the Eight-Party Alliance today (Thursday)

successful to force President Ershad and his Government to resign.

The programme of the Alliance includes a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue at 10 a.m. and a "mass march" to the President's Secretariat after the rally.

Addressing a rally of the officers and employees of banks and insurance companies, the BADC [Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation] and other corporations held on Wednesday afternoon at Shapla Square in front of Bangladesh Bank, Sheikh Hasina said that time is now ripe to launch an all out united movement to save the nation from the rule of the present regime. She said that even after the spontaneous 54-hour hartal and demonstration of total no-confidence in the Government by the people, the "shameless" Government had not yet resigned. She observed that the wave of the mass movement would wipe out the last vestige of the present autocratic rule.

Criticising the Government for imposing restrictions on meetings and processions in areas surrounding the President's Secretariat, the Awami League chief said that the people would not accept any repressive measures. She observed that the order restricting rallies and processions was undemocratic.

The Leader of the Opposition reminded all to remain alert against the conspiracies to foil the present mass movement. She said that the nation had a bitter experience that whenever people's movement reached the peak certain forces tried to sabotage it. She asserted that the present mass movement would not end without the fall of the autocratic regime.

Referring to the punitive measures being planned against the officers and employees of public sector banks and insurance companies, the BADC and other corporations for their spontaneous support to the people's movement, the Awami League chief warned the Government against the consequences of its repressive policies. She said that there would be a total dislocation in the public sector if the Government did not stop its oppression.

She said that the present regime usurped power illegally and it wanted to remain in power illegally. "We must give the autocratic regime a final blow and try them for snatching democratic rights, killing people and destroying the national economy", she asserted.

The rally was presided over by Mr. Abdul Jabbar, General Secretary of Janata Bank Officers Association. Mr Md. Farhad, General Secretary of CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] and Mr. Suranjit Sen Gupta, a central leader of NAP [National Awami Party] also addressed the rally.

Chowdhury Welcomes India-Sri Lanka Accord

BK301703 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Bangladesh has welcomed the peace accord between Sri Lanka and India aimed at ending the ethnic coflict in the island state. Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said this in Dhaka today. He said Bangladesh would welcome any development that would further the cause of peace.

Spokesman Says No Citizens Affected in Mecca

BK031340 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka yesterday that there was no report of any Bangladeshi citizen being affected by the incident involving the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca.

Gandhi Claims Outsiders Incite Sri Lanka Violence

BK010419 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister has charged certain outside forces with inciting planned violence in Sri Lanka. He said these forces can stay in Sri Lanka as long as there is violence, and that is why they are against the Indo-Sri Lanka accord which aims at restoring peace in the island. Mr Gandhi was addressing a group of block [agricultural sector] trainers from nine districts of Punjab who had called on him at his residence in New Delhi yesterday. He said both India and Sri Lanka will have to be careful against the forces out to weaken the accord.

Mr Gandhi was confident that President Jayewardene will do his best to ensure effective implementation of the accord. He said once the accord is implemented, the vested interests will be forced to leave the island and Sri Lanka will be able to follow the path of nonalignment with renewed vigor.

Referring to terrorism in Punjab, the prime minister said unity is necessary to fight communal forces in the country.

Accord To Benefit South Asia

BK011250 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister today said that by signing the Colombo accord, India has foiled the designs of the forces which were trying to wean away Sri Lanka from the Nonaligned Movement. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the accord is the first of its kind signed by India in the 20th century. He said it will not only benefit the two countries, but strengthen the entire South Asia. The prime minister was addressing a meeting at Naini near Allahabad after laying the foundation stone of fiber optics projects.

Earlier, the prime minister was received at the airport by the Uttar Pradesh governor, the chief minister, his cabinet colleagues, and others when he arrived in Allahabad.

Before leaving for Allahabad, Mr Rajiv Gandhi called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] and apprised him of his visit to Sri Lanka. The meeting lasted about 45 minutes.

Parliamentary Committee To View Bofors Arms Deal

BK030902 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, moved a motion in the Lok Sabha [Lower House] today for the appointment of a joint committee to enquire into the issues arising from the report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau on the Bofors contract. The committee is to consist of 21 members — 14 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha [Upper House]. The committee is to inquire into and establish the identity of the persons, agencies, and firms who received payments from Messrs Bofors in connection with their contract to supply 155-mm howitzer guns and associated equipment to India. It is also to inquire into and determine the Indian laws, rules, and regulations which were violated by the concerned persons, agencies, or firms by receiving such payments. The joint committee is to make suitable recommendations based on their findings.

Moving the motion, the defense minister recalled how the allegations of improper payments made by Bofors were disclosed in the press and the efforts made by the government to obtain fullest information about these allegations from all possible quarters.

Defense Minister Briefs House

BK040422 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Excerpts] In the Lok Sabha today, the ruling and opposition members were sharply divided over the appointment of a parliamentary committee to inquire into the various aspects of the Bofors gun deal, including the payment of commissions. They were participating in a debate on a motion moved by the defense minister, Mr. K.C. Pant, for the appointment of a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Earlier, moving the motion for consideration, the defense minister, Mr Pant, said the establishment of a joint committee reflects the unanimous wish of the Parliament and of all political parties that the full facts of the payments by Bofors need to be ascertained and placed before the country. He said due consideration has been given to the suggestions made by leaders of the opposition parties in the communication to the prime minister. On the demand to expand the scope of the joint committee to include the West German submarines purchase, Mr Pant said the investigations by various agencies of the Finance Ministry are still under way. He assured the House that when the investigations are completed, the government will inform the Parliament. Mr Pant said in the case of Bofors, as was established that a prima facie case exists, the government immediately decided to refer the matter to a parliamentary probe.

In a statement, Mr Pant recalled how the government made efforts to obtain full information as soon as allegations of improper payments by Bofors were discussed in the press in April last. As a result of the Government of India's insistence the Swedish Government referred the matter to the Swedish National Audit Bureau. On receipt of the report, the matter was discussed with leaders of the opposition parties and the government decided to appoint a parliamentary committee to go into it. The government also approached the Swedish Government and the Bofors to get all details, including the excised portion of the audit report. The House was informed that Bofors had sent a reply on the 3d of last month in which they denied payment of bribes or the use of middlemen to win the contract. Bofors also said they were forced to terminate long-standing international cooperation and reorganize their marketing setup to fulfill India's requirements that no middlemen shall be involved. They however, disclosed that to terminate their earlier arrangement, winding-up costs were paid out and it did not influence the price of the contract.

The defense minister pointed out that while the questions raised in our letter were specific, the Bofors reply thereto is general. The reply does no disclose the crucial information about the recipients of the payments and the services rendered by them. The vice president of the company who delivered the Bofors reply on the 3d of last month reiterated the need of his employers to maintain commercial confidentiality. When questioned, he was unable to give definite indication as to whether his superiors would be willing to disclose the relevant information needed by us.

Gandhi in Favor of Debate

BK030316 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said the government wants a parliamentary debate on the Bofors issue, but the opposition has been stalling the move. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at Madras airport before his departure for New Delhi last night. He said the visit by the vice president of the Bofors Company to India will serve no purpose as they are not willing to part with the required information in writing. He said the proposed parliamentary committee can go into the issues raised by the Swedish National Audit Bureau's report. [passage omitted]

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on 3-Day Visit 3 Aug

BK030546 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi
0530 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived in New Delhi today on 3-day official visit to India. He was given a rousing welcome at Palam Airport. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his cabinet colleagues were present to greet him at the airport.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr 'Arafat stated that he was happy to be in India. He expressed his gratitude to India for its continous support to the Palestinian cause and said that the Palestinians will never forget this.

Holds Talks With Gandhi

BK031616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi this evening. The two leaders were together for about an hour and a half and held discussions on bilateral issues.

The delegations of the two sides also held talks and the Indian side was led by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, while the PLO delegation was headed by Mr Jawid al-Ghusayn, member of the Executive Committee. The Indian side reaffirmed its support to the Palestinian cause and to the right for a homeland. They said no solution can be found to the problem without the PLO's active participation. The Palestinian side deeply appreciated the continuous support extended by India.

On the India-Sri Lankan accord, they expressed their confidence that this will help make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. The Palestinian side also commended the facilities given by India for training Palestinian students. [passage omitted]

Feted by Gandhi at Banquet

BK040314 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] India has reaffirmed its support to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent state. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting PLO chief, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, in New Delhi last night, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, called for a total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories. Referring to the proposed international peace conference on West Asia, the prime minister said the PLO and all parties concerned must participate in it.

On the Iran-Iraq war, Mr Gandhi said all efforts should be made to bring an early end to the conflict.

Referring to South Africa, he said urgent sanctions are needed to dismantle apartheid.

The prime minister in his speech also referred to the threat to the security of the subcontinuent as a result of massive induction of sophisticated arms. He said India is seeking to develop good relations with its neighbors, both bilaterally and through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Meets President, Officials

BK040928 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The visiting PLO chief, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, in Rashtrapathi Bhavan [president's house] this morning. The meeting lasted for half an hour. Mr Venkataraman is hosting a lunch in honor of the visiting leader.

Earlier, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, and the chairman of the foreign affairs department of the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-Indira], Mr Romesh Bhandari, called on Mr 'Arafat.

Reportage, Comment on 'Martyrdom' Exercises

Participants Vow 'Revenge'

LD021057 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0800 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement by unidentified official]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am talking to you from the advance headquarters of Nuh of the naval forces of the Guards Corps, the center of command for the great "Martyrdom" exercises. On behalf of all fighters taking part in this great exercise, I greet the imam of the ummah and the families of the martyrs of the recent crime in Mecca, as well as the heroic ummah, from a distant corner in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz [as heard].

In a message to the Muslim nation of Iran and all nations from the fighters participating in the great exercises, we issue a warning to the United States, the arch-villain and usurper, the entity which orders its lackey Saudi Arabia to drag our innocent people and guests of God in blood and dust. We will exact a price from you and all your lackeys in the Persian Gulf region for the blood shed by the martyrs in Mecca.

We warn the United States that revenge for the blood of dozens of innocent and Muslim pilgrims will be taken in the Persian Gulf region and the Strait of Hormuz from you criminals. We warn regional reaction, particularly Saudi Arabia, that soon the Muslim people and our fighters will revenge the blood of the innocent pilgrims from you, the Al Sa'ud who have occupied Mecca and dragged the guests of God in blood and dust. We declare our readiness and our allegiance to our beloved imam's message to revenge the blood of the pilgrims.

Guards Corps Communique

LD031202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit Report, Communique No 2 of the general headquarters of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] on the subject of the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers was released as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In order to demonstrate the might of the IRGC Navy and the naval supremacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman; to prepare the popular forces of the cities and provinces along the coastal waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman against possible aggressions by the arch satan, the world-devouring United States, and her hireling servants in the southern blue waters of Islamic Iran; and to honor the memory of the great martyrs among the pilgrims to God's house who gained the exalted status of martyrdom at the dirty hands of the U.S. agents of the Al Sa'ud family in the holy temple of monotheism, the IRGC Navy, in full readiness, will begin the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers.

The selfless guards and mobilization forces from the Hormozgan, Baluchestan va Sistan, Bushehr, and Khuzestan Provinces will participate in this with cooperation from some units of the ground and air forces of the Guards Corps, from Chah Bahar to the port of Al-Faw.

On the basis of the same communique, the Noah headquarters of the Guards Corps Navy, the center for directing the great "Martyrdom" maneuvres, has announced: All forces taking part in these maneuvers have announced their readiness and taken up their positions. Therefore, all shipping line centers and military and civilian aircraft are hereby notified that from 2400 hours tonight, corresponding to 2030 GMT, on 3 August 1987 until 6 August 1987, they should seriously refrain from entering the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman and from flying over this airspace for 3 days.

Preliminary Exercises Detailed

LD040734 Tehran IRNA in English 0647 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Aug. 4, IRNA — The preliminary stage of the first great naval maneuvers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) codenamed 'Shahadat' (Martyrdom) started in various coastal points of the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman, Monday afternoon. In this stage of the maneuvers, conducted from Al-Faw operational region to Chah Bahar coasts, combat readiness of Basiji para-military forces were demonstrated.

Tens of thousands of Basijis, mainly from littoral provinces, set up bunkers and other defence along the coasts of the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz.

In the first stage of the maneuvers, and in mock-combat operations Basijis and IRGC naval forces ambushed enemy embankments on Persian Gulf coasts and Gulf of Oman and while stationing in them fired at hypothetical targets. Meanwhile, military commanders described as "very good" the speed of defenders of the Persian Gulf in establishing positions and fortifications.

The second stage of Shahadat maneuvers will be conducted in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman waters Tuesday.

Guard Corps Navy Commander Comments

NC040903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0519 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Interview with Ala'i, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], by an unidentified correspondent carried as part of the Morning Magazine feature; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Ala'i, why are the "Martyrdom" maneuvers being held?

[Ala'i] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The "Martyrdom" maneuvers are the IRGC Navy's first large-scale naval exercise. These exercises are being held (?following orders) issued by the imam and (?with the participation) of the three

forces [words indistinct]. During these exercises, vast forces and potential (?will be displayed). Due to the current situation in the Persian Gulf and the threats from America and the big powers, these exercises will show them the Islamic Republic's naval strength in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman.

[Correspondent] What forces will participate in the "Martyrdom" maneuvers?

[Ala'i] The IRGC Navy and Air Force will participate, as well as ground forces having a support role.

[Correspondent] How many phases will the exercises have?

[Ala'i] There will be three phases which, God willing, will be carried out over a 3-day period.

[Correspondent] Can you please inform us about the different phases?

[Ala'i] In the first phase on the first day, we will station our forces on the coasts and the islands and ensure that they are prepared for any confrontation and ready to repulse any attempted occupation of these islands. The second phase will involve exercises in dealing with fires which the enemy might set on the islands and coasts. Vast forces will participate in this phase and various operations have been planned, the details of which will be reported later. The other operations will include attacks on enemy ships and their subsequent occupation, operations to destroy enemy positions, and (?similar) operations. However, we cannot divulge details of these because of security considerations.

[Correspondent] Recently, the [words indistinct] Saudi regime attacked a group of Iranian pilgrims in God's house and these dear ones were killed. As the "Martyrdom" maneuvers are taking place so soon after this incident, what are your thoughts?

[Ala'i] The United States planned and plotted this to compensate for the disgraces it has suffered. The Americans approved the Security Council resolution. However, they were defeated and were unable to implement it. They brought their forces to the Persian Gulf and started escorting Kuwaiti tankers. This too failed. They attempted (?to clear the area of mines) with helicopters, but they failed in this. Therefore, in a bid to avenge themselves on the Muslim people, they forced Saudi Arabia, a pro-U.S. country and an American lackey, to attack defenseless women and (?disabled people), so that they could take their revenge on Islam and the Muslims. However, they should be prepared for the sinister outcome of the crime they have perpetrated. We will avenge ourselves both on America and on Saudi Arabia. The future will, God willing, show that our revenge will be very heavy.

[Correspondent] God willing. As the IRGC Navy commander, what do you expect from the ummah [words indistinct]?

[Ala'i] Our ummah has been and will always be present on the scene. Our nation should make the imam's recent message, a historic message and a charter of the Islamic revolution, the epigraph of their acts and see it as the strategy of the Islamic revolution. They should implement the entire message, word by word, and be ready to witness bigger (?incidents) and acts of greater bravery.

[Correspondent] I thank you and pray for the victory of our dear fighters on the fronts of the war of good against evil.

'City Operation' Set for 6 Aug

LD040923 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Esfahan, Aug. 4, IRNA — A commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said here Tuesday that 'Shahadat' (Martyrdom) maneuvers of the IRGC naval forces in the Persian Gulf were serious and warned foreign warships to observe the regulations set by Iran during the maneuvers (to keep away from Iranian territorial waters), "or else we will severely confront them."

He termed Iran's mission in the Persian Gulf "important" and stressed that security in the waterway should be maintained by littoral states with the Islamic Republic of Iran at the top.

He said 55 divisions of Basiji (volunteer) forces from three provinces (Esfahan, Yazd and Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari) will display their combat power next Thursday in a city operation to be conducted in support of the 'Shahadat' naval maneuvers in the Persian Gulf.

'Martyrdom' Maneuvers Begin

LD041128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has made the following announcement in a communique: The heroic forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, assisted by the cooperation and heroism of the valiant people in the south of our country, and in order to guard Islam and the innocent blood of the pilgrims to the safe house of God, which entails the establishment of security on the southern borders of the Islamic homeland of Iran, last night began the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers with the enemy-crushing codename of "Here We Come, O Imam" [Labbayk ya Imam]. They are under the command of the advance naval Nuh base, manifesting the power and defensive strength of the forces of the hidden imam, may God hasten his glad advent.

The first stages of these maneuvers were carried out with the participation of four armored divisions from Baluchestan va Sistan, Hormozgan, Bushehr, and Khuzestan Provinces, with the support of combat-engineering forces, combat-medical forces, and the Air Force of the Guards Corps. The operations to protect the shores and islands of the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf extended from Chah Bahar Island to Al-Faw Island. With the assistance of God Almighty, they will continue until the last hours today.

According to this communique from the Nuh base, the command staff of the maneuvers once again informs the relevant quarters of the ban against the movement of ships and aircraft in the area

where the maneuvers are being held. The future phases of the maneuvers will be brought to the attention of the Islamic ummah in subsequent communiques.

'Secret Resolutions' Against Saudi Arabia, U.S.

AU041007 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Bonn, Aug 4 (AFP) — Iranian leaders have adopted "secret resolutions" to deal with those they hold responsible for the deaths of more than 400 pilgrims at the Islamic shrine of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said in an interview published here Tuesday.

Mr. Rafansanjani also told the West German daily *Die Welt* that Iran would "later reveal" information implicating the United States in the killings, which occurred in a confrontation between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces Friday. "If one takes account of the enormous influence the United States has over Saudi Arabia, (it is clear that) such a dangerous action could not be carried out without it," Mr. Rafsanjani added.

The nature of Tehran's resolutions would become clear "once they had been made concrete," Mr. Rafsanjani said. Iran's religious leaders and their Moslem supporters in Lebanon have already issued threats against the Saudi monarchy and its American allies.

Tehran has said that 320 Iranians and 120 people of other nationalities were killed near the Grand Mosque in a "preplanned massacre" organized as part of a "conspiracy" between Saudi Arabia and the United States. Rejecting the charge, Saudi officials say that security forces intervened only to restore order after demonstrations by Iranian pilgrims, and that a total of 402 people were trampled to death in the panicked crowd.

The U.S. State Department has said that Iran's accusations were "totally baseless" and the Saudi press has cited messages of support from almost all its fellow Arab states.

"Demonstrations must take place" at Mecca, Mr. Rafsanjani told *Die Welt*. "Islam, unlike Christianity, is not just bound to a moral code," he said. "It has political and economic imperatives and a combative role. I remember taking part in demonstrations at Mecca against France during the Algerian war of independence. If the government of Saudi Arabia wants to ban demonstrations now it is because it is afraid."

Referring to the recent appointment of a West German anti-terrorist expert as head of the Saudi security forces, Mr. Rafsanjani said "We hope West Germany did not play a role in the events at Mecca." General Ulrich Wegener, former head of the GSG-9 elite commando unit, would be taking up his post in Saudi Arabia in September, a Defence Ministry spokesman announced here last week.

Musavi Says Saudis Delaying Transfer of Bodies

NC040813 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Dear listeners: According to reports, the dependent Saudi Arabian Government continues to prevent the transfer of the holy bodies of the martyrs of the Bloody Friday incident in Mecca. We invite you to listen to a telephone interview with Prime Minister Musavi on this.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, the Saudi Government apparently is procrastinating in allowing the bodies to be transferred to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is also possibly resorting to obstructionism. Can Your Excellency please discuss the current state of relations between the two countries and what the Islamic Republic of Iran is doing in this regard?

[Musavi] The reports we get indicate that [Iranian] planes have landed in Saudi Arabia following that country's authorization for our planes to transfer the wounded and the holy bodies of our martyrs. Unfortunately, the first plane that landed has been grounded for 5 hours and is surrounded by armed Saudi police. Contrary to all international norms, the crew and pilot have not been allowed to leave the plane. Although the bodies were to be at the airport ready for transfer along with the wounded, the Saudi authorities have not done anything. We were informed a few minutes ago that they said they want to transfer the bodies from Mecca. However, as long as they are not yet at the airport and have not yet been handed over, we cannot be certain.

Another point that may have affected this delay is the analysis of our brothers that the Saudi police and officials did not allow them to see the bodies of persons shot to death. We believe that this procrastination is aimed at separating these bodies. We should wait and see if this is the case. At any rate, contacts are now being made by the Foreign Ministry, our brothers there, and the Red Crescent Society. Hopefully, this affair will be resolved, depending on the Saudi rulers permission.

[Correspondent] Mr Musavi, is it possible that the Saudi Government is procrastinating in order to downplay their crime? Have any decisions been reached on our response?

[Musavi] The crime and its dimensions are so extensive that even the mass media, which has always supported America and its henchmen in the world, have been compelled to report this horrific crime. Therefore, despite Saudi Arabia's attempts, it will not be able to cover up this issue. Initially, they claimed that no more than 14 or 15 persons had been killed. However, they were subsequently forced to admit to a higher number, once they realized they could not hide the extent of the crime, especially as hundreds of thousands of ears and eyes had seen the bloody heads and bodies of our pilgrims. We believe this is not one of those incidents that can be hushed up. We also believe that the dimensions of this issue will be clarified further every day.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Your Excellency. [end recording]

Further on Delay

LD041044 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Saudi rulers are preventing delivery of the bodies of Iranian Hajj pilgrims martyred in Mecca Friday, a reliable source disclosed to IRNA Tuesday.

This obstruction by the Saudi rulers, who claim that even "a single bullet" has not been fired at Iranian pilgrims, is aimed at deceiving the public opinion by publishing unrealistic analyses through the loudspeakers of reactionary states and airing censored films on the incident.

Saudi rulers on the orders of their U.S. masters brutally attacked defenseless demonstrators participating in the 'antipathy against pagans' rally and shed the blood of innocent women, disabled and aged people.

The Saudi regime despite a previous agreement for the delivery of the bodies of Iranian martyrs has refrained from doing so under various pretexts while families of the martyrs and injured are impatiently waiting for their beloved ones.

On Friday, July 31, the fascist Saudi police attacked the demonstrators by suffocating gas, batons, and machine guns martyring hundreds of Hajj pilgrims and injuring thousands of others.

Investigative Panel Barred From Saudi Arabia

LD021028 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 2, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry communique released here Sunday declared that the Saudi rulers prevented an Iranian fact-finding panel from entering Saudi territory and visiting the victims of the Saudi police massacre, fearing that it might reveal the dimensions of Friday's bloody disaster in Mecca.

The panel comprising representatives of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Imam Khomeyni, President Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi and Foreign Ministry was also to visit and talk to head of Iranian Hajj pilgrims as well as Imam Khomeyni's representative Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi.

The communique stated that the panel, owing to the fact that Saudi Government shoulders the responsibility of the disaster turned down an official verbal request at the airport to meet ranking royal family authorities.

The probe team in a protest to Saudi Government opposition to the rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran to investigate the incident decided to fly home, the communique concluded.

Khomeyni Receives 'Martyrs' Families, Officials

LD031415 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Excerpt] A group of families of martyrs, missing, and POWs of Khomeyn, Varamin, Tonekabon and Tehran townships, a number of clergymen and personnel of the politico-religious department of the armed forces, and personnel from government departments and units under the control of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces, were received today by the imam of the ummah at his Jamaran residence. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting the imam of the ummah responded to the display of emotion of those present.

Besharati Comments on Mecca Incident, Saudi Ties

LD021840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1307 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Studio phone-in with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, head of the investigative delegation to Jeddah; unidentified presenter reads questions from callers on the 31 July incident in Mecca -- live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Besharati] One asks: What motivated the Al Sa'ud regime to resort to this act? Could it be that they, who do not really believe in Islam, intend to pose as the guardians of the holy shrines? They have made some improvements for the sake of appearances. For instance, they have extended the areas around the shrine and illuminated them. However, they do not believe in such matters. The case of Al Sa'ud reminds one of the incident of the muezzin [person who calls people to prayer] in [word indistinct].

There is a story which goes like this: In a town in Syria, the local muezzin died. Although the people tried to find another Muslim muezzin to replace him, they made no progress. Eventually, they found a Jew to do the job of the muezzin. So, every day this Jewish muezzin would go to the rooftop and shout: As the people in this town say "There is no God but God"; according to the people of this town, I bear testimony that the prophet is the messenger of God. This is the case of the Al Sa'ud rulers. They have no faith in Islam. However, they impersonate Muslims in order to prolong their reign for another few days. This crime proves that they do not have the slightest idea about Islam.

Needless to say, our nation is alert. Our statesmen and officials have assured our dear ones, our valiant people, and the Hezbollahis that they will not rest until they avenge the blood of our eminent martyrs. On this, we assure our dear nation. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr Besharati, please allow me to pose my next question: How do relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia now stand? Furthermore, what effect is the recent incident going to have on these relations?

[Besharati] Generally we adhere to a principle which we apply to our foreign relations and which all other countries observe. We try to have relations with all our neighbors. We try to have relations with Islamic countries and with the nonaligned countries. We try to have relations with countries that respect us and do not interfere in our internal affairs; that is, first, our neighbors, second, Muslims, third, the nonaligned countries, and, finally, the countries with which we want to have normal relations and they with us.

As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, it is our neighbor and we have repeatedly stated we intend to establish security and tranquility in the sensitive and strategic region of the Persian Gulf. The security of this vital and highly important waterway must be maintained with the help of all Persian Gulf littoral states. Moreover, Saudi Arabia is a Muslim country and we have always had relations with it. However, we have never denied that Saudi Arabia is a reactionary country and a U.S. puppet. It does whatever the United States dictates.

Having said that, it is because of this that our relations with Saudi Arabia are at charge d'affaires level; that is, a low level. Now, years after the Islamic revolution, the Saudis have realized that with the passing of each day, with the ever-increasing depth of the Islamic revolution, and with the growing stability and firmness of our system, they are taking another step toward death, extinction, and isolation. Consequently, being guided and supported by the United States, they fully support the Saddam regime in its war against us. [passage omitted]

As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, there is unrest in that country. Actually, we know that the U.S. helicopter which crashed 2 days ago during a perfectly normal exercise, resulting in the death of four of its crew, crashed because an opponent of Saudi Arabia had placed a bomb in the helicopter. [passage omitted]

We wanted to have good relations with the regional states, including Saudi Arabia. In this regard, we always sought to consultwith individuals and friends over certain issues. However, this incident by the Saudis was a shot fired into the brain of our bilateral relations. From now on our friends will know what to do. Our brethren know what to do. We shall carry out a savage revenge which the Al Sa'ud regime will eternally regret. As the holy Koran says, we shall avenge so hard that it will serve as an eternal lesson. In brief, they knew quite well that events in the region were leading to their definite decline. Well, this process allows them to continue their disgusting life. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr Besharati, many of our listeners have called to ask you to announce the names of the martyrs of Bloody Friday in Mecca. Is it possible for you to do this?

[Besharati] Before announcing this list, I implore all our dear ones, our dear citizens, our proud nation, to pay heed to several points. First, do not pay attention to every rumor. In most instances, news and rumors are mixed making it difficult to find correct reports or statistics. Second, we have no exact figures. We will produce information as we receive it. We will not use guesswork. Therefore, no matter how many lists we receive, until we are certain of the information, we will not announce the names. Third, the bodies are mostly in the hands of Saudi Arabia. They are not allowing us to identify them or to get any statistics. So far we have received some information. Our charge has talked with Saudi officials. He has expressed our nation's hatred and anger and has asked them to release all the bodies. There is every chance, God willing, that we will obtain the bodies, bring them home, and deliver them to their relatives and dear ones. Before doing this, we will give a correct list of the names of the martyrs to our martyr-nurturing nation.

The list that I have at the moment includes the names of 30 women and sister martyrs. This is another stain of shame on the soiled body of the Al Sa'ud regime. [passage omitted listing names of 28 women and 11 men] I would like to add that there are many more martyrs. However, as a result of the barbarity of the Al Sa'ud regime's attacks, most of the sisters' veils were torn. The number of the emblem of their caravan that is usually sewn on the veil is missing. At the moment there are many victims in the morgue, but it is very difficult for us to identify them. There are also many other martyrs in the hands of the regime of Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr Besharati, one of our listeners states that following this horrible crime, it seems that the Saudi rulers started a political and diplomatic move in order to explain the issue. They are following a theological viewpoint. The question is: How do you view this move, and how do you describe the reaction of the Islamic Republic both theologically and politically?

[Besharati] The type of Islam desired by the Al Sa'ud regime, those puppets, is a soulless hajj which has no message. This is clearly and noticeably in opposition to the hajj performed by the messenger of God. The type of hajj we wish to perform, like all the grand declarations of Islam that were reinstated in this country after many years in this Islamic homeland, would be like those desired by the messenger of God, the imams, and the followers of the messenger of God. Naturally those who (?have no understanding) of Islamic principals dislike it. They want exclusive control over everything. They do not wish to see a neighboring country talk about Islam, offering pure Islam. Naturally, Islam is a religion of power. [passage indistinct]

The sort of religion that the Islamic Republic is advocating is true and noble. It is very attractive and people naturally gather around us. Thus Saudi Arabia no longer has any credibility. Aside from the money obtained from the sale of oil at very low prices, they have no other attraction. This has a limited effect. What is effective is Islam that influences the pure being of humanity. They want to stop us from being an axis. They want to take away our initiative. Therefore, they resort to any means. Their masters — Abu Sufian, Abu Lahad, and Abu Jahl — were unable to stop the influence of Islam with the wars of early Islam, such as Khandaq, Sadr, Ohod, and others. They are not able to do better.

[Question] Mr Besharati, the Saudi leaders have apparently begun a media campaign to spread misinformation about their deeds in Mecca. Could you please tell us about the measures undertaken by the Foreign Ministry in this case?

[Besharati] Seven delegations, bearing a message from his excellency the president, will be leaving today and tomorrow for various Islamic countries. They will reveal [facts] and will deliver our message to other countries. They will hold interviews. Our ambassadors have been ordered to give news conferences. Considering the deep influence that the Islamic Republic has among the various strata of Muslim nations, they have already started to condemen this ugly, despicable action of the Al Sa'ud rulers. When the news reaches them, they will certainly react appropriately, probably with marches. They will condemn this Saudi action through letters and other means. From now on it is our

turn to show our power and influence among various the nations. [passage omitted]

[Question] Continuing our questioning of Mr Besharati, one of our listners has asked why the United Nations has remained silent about this deliberate murder?

[Besharati] It is clear. I believe that the experience the Islamic Republic of Iran has had with the United Nations and all other discredited international organizations answers the question posed by this dear one. When the UN Security Council recently issued a resolution, without stating who started the war or the innumerable crimes committed by the Ba'thist Iraqi regime during 7 years of war -- all of which it confesses to -- then how can they close their eyes to such crimes, and still pretend, and ask the opposing sides to accept peace? What can we expect from this United Nations or the Security Council?

How can we go to a source that is a supporter of the cruel warmonger? How can we pay any attention to institutions and organizations that are themselves responsible for the war, for warmongering, and for committing crimes against our nation?

Our nation has learned to rely on God and itself. We have no need to refer such issues to international organizations. Although we will give this an international dimension, we have no faith in them. In order to maintain appearnces, we probably will reflect this in various countries and organizations. However, we have no faith that they will teach the enemy a bitter lesson through appropriate reprisals in order to stop the repetition of such crimes. They are blind to any actions or advice from the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Hezbollahi Urged Not To Attack Saudi Embassies

LD012012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Excerpts] We draw your attention to comments made by Ali Mohammad Besharati about the Bloody Friday incidents in holy Mecca and the occupation of Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti Embassies by the Hezbollah ummah, during an exclusive interview with our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Besharati, could you kindly comment on the motives of the Saudi Government in committing such barbaric acts?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. (?With praises for the pure and innocent blood-drenched martyrs of our nation in Mecca). In wake of the American imperialists repeated defeats at the hands of the Islamic nation, and particularly the recent failure in escorting a Kuwaiti vessel, (?it) took its revenge from the pilgrims to the house of God. [passage omitted] As mentioned before, the Saudis have been faced with defeat.

[Correspondent] There are questions being asked to the effect that this morning the Saudi and Kuwaiti embassies were occupied by [words indistinct]. Would you comment on this?

[Besharati] Naturally, the mass murder of innocent people in Mecca can not be suitably justified in the eyes of our nation, and the Saudis will learn a bitter lesson, making them regret their act forever. However, considering [words indistinct] which deals with the security of foreign diplomats, we believe that such acts are not appropriate. Our embassies in other countries will be defenseless. Perhaps, God forbid, this sort of action may be a deviant line trying to outshine the news of the immense demonstrations of the pilgrims to the house of God and the murder of our defenseless people and [words indistinct]. Therefore, I urge our dear hezbollahi and revolutionary nation which have always [words indistinct] not to attack the embassies of [word indistinct] countries, particularly of Saudi Arabia. They should be secure. Our argument is with their government. They should enjoy a reasonable level of security.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Later in his interview, Mr Besharati said: In this horrible crime, the Saudi Arabian Government bloodied defenseless people and the pilgrims of the house of God in the secure shrine of God, on behalf of the United States. As a result, our people have the right to be concerned about the lives of their brothers and sisters who have gone there as their representative and on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our people have the right to make the world hear their objections to this barbaric act of the Saudi Government. The Saudi Arabian Government can be sure that our people will give them a bitter lesson. He added: Considering the situation that has arisen, Saudi Arabia has shown that it is not worthy of being the servant of the shrines. It is time for the world of Islam to make a serious decision concerning the management of the holy shrines by a group of ulema of the world of Islam.

Hajj Official Interviewed on Mecca Victims

LD011738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, an official from the hajj headquarters in holy Mecca answered questions about the savage attack by the Saudi police on pilgrims to the house of God and on the number of those martyred and injured. We draw your attention to the interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified hajj official] As for the number of martyrs, we have been making inquires and collecting the names of all groups of Iranian pilgrims. The expected figure is something around 300 martyrs. At the moment, given the present condition, with no cooperation from Saudi hospitals and without permission to check the number of martyrs at their hospitals or even to keep track of the number of our people martyred, injured, and missing, we have been left with a very large registry of missing persons. What we can absolutely confirm is around 130 martyrs, who have not been fully identified, at Malik 'Abd al-'Aziz Hospital in Saudi Arabia. Another 35 martyrs are also being retained at the Iranian hospital, which brings the total figure to around 150 martyrs.

We believe that among those reported as missing, around 150 will be counted as martyrs.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us whether there are more women or men among the dead?

[Hajj official] Unfortunately, since the attack by Saudi officers and police, following their vile and inhuman move in hitting at the first row of our demonstrators and marchers where our women and the revolution's selfless [those injured in the war] happened to be, a large number of those martyred and injured were old women who were not physically well. Therefore, the majority of our martyrs and injured are unfortunately women.

[Correspondent] Can you specify whether they were from Tehran or from provincial cities?

[Hajj official] Well, nothing can be ruled out. Of all registers sent to me, we have martyrs and injured and missing from all places in the country due to the way our pilgrims took part in the march with harmony and enthusiasm. [2-minute break in transmission] I will give you a general view of the latest situation [passage indistinct] God willing, we should be able to count general figures by 2200 tonight. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Have the Saudis delivered any of the martyrs they are holding?

[Hajj official] They have not yet delivered any. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Mohtashemi Attacks Saudis, U.S. Over Incident

NC020755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] In the wake of the attack by the Al Sa'ud regime's security police on those marching for the disavowal of pagans in holy Mecca and with the martyrdom of hundreds of the pilgrims to the house of God, Interior Minister Mohtashemi sent a strongly worded message to Saudi Interior Minister Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

The message states: According to the most recent reports, the police and law enforcement bodies under your jurisdiction have, on instructions from the United States, martyred hundreds of pilgrims of the house of God and wounded and asphyxiated thousands. Also, due to the inhuman conduct of your agents we do not have any exact figures of those martyred or wounded. Undoubtedly, there is more to this affair than is being reported in the media. It is natural that the direct responsibility for the catastrophe falls on the Saudi regime and on you, in your capacity as the Saudi interior minister. You have not only been unable to guarantee the Islamic obligation for the safety of the pilgrims and marchers, who, as in previous years, have been delivering the call for the disavowal of the pagans and infidels, but you have also supported the pioneers of paganism and apostasy, the United States, the Soviet Union, and Zionism. You have stained your hands with the blood of the pilgrims to the house of God on the instructions of the arch satan. The Saudi police will eternally bear this shame. Just as the infidels at the time of the advent of Islam stoned the sacred person of the prophet of Islam on this very spot, the Saudi police also threw stones at the pilgrims to the house of God within the holy precincts of the Shi'ab Abi Talib. They trapped the people, and in an inhuman attack on young and old, on the selfless ones of the revolution and all the marchers, they displayed a bestiality reminiscent of the shah's mercenary commandos in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] in the year 1357 [1978].

In another part of his message to the Saudi interior minister, he said: The Muslim and Hezbollahi nations all over the world will respond appropriately with direct attacks on U.S. (?interests) and its presence all over the world. Our courageous mobilized people in the Persian Gulf will take revenge on U.S. forces for the pure blood of the pilgrims to the house of God. I will cite here the sayings of the descendants of the prophet of God, Husayn ibn 'Ali (SAW), who addressed the troops of his adversary Abu Sufyan's offspring: If you do not have faith in the custodian of the holy Ka'ba and if you do not fear the day of reckoning and retribution, at least be noble in the world. Such conduct on your part will not allay the anger of the Muslims of the Hijaz. Beware the day when the offspring of the Jazirat al-'Arab demand (?compensation) for the blood of the innocent pilgrims to the house of God from the echelons of the Al Saud regime [words indistinct].

What we and other Muslims in the world will consider carefully is your incompetence in safeguarding the two holy mosques, (?and) the enemy of Islam, the United States. We will present this topic in a new and serious manner to Muslim nations, so that, God willing, in the near future these holy sites will be supervised by the Muslims of the world.

In conclusion, in my capacity as the interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and arising from the fact that the pure blood of Muslims has been shed by lackeys in your country, I demand that you make arrangements as soon as possible to hand over the pure bodies of all Iranian Muslims. Please adopt a more humane attitude to the wounded and victims of the catastrophe, and establish hospital visiting privileges. Second, I warn you seriously in your capacity as the interior minister of the Saudi regime, that the responsibility for the safety of the Muslim pilgrims rests with you under all circumstances. The crimes and catastrophes that took place will not go unanswered. Therefore, regarding the Iranian pilgrims, I wish to add that these dear ones should be able to perform the rituals of hajj with peace of mind and in complete safety and should be allowed to return to Islamic Iran. It is appropriate that the responsibilities for any shortcomings in this regard will fall on you, the Saudi Government, and the world devourer the United States.

Hajj Official Says 600 'Martyred,' 4,500 Injured

LD030912 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — More than 600 Iranian pilgrims were martyred or are now missing and some 4,500 injured in the joint U.S.-Saudi massacre of the innocent pilgrims in Mecca Friday, announced here Monday the head of Hajj and Pilgrimage Organisation, Mohammad Hoseyn Rezai'e.

Rezai'e told IRNA that as the Saudi police are not cooperative there is no contact with Saudi hospitals and the exact number of the martyred or those in Saudi custody is not yet known.

Rezai'e said that some 250 Iranians are now hospitalized in medical centers of Iran, adding that a number of mothers of the martyrs of the Iraqi imposed war were themselves martyred in Mecca Friday.

Karrubi Says United States Behind Saudi Actions

LD021639 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 2 Aug 87

["Mecca Massacre Proves Saudi Subservience to U.S., Zionists, says Karrubi" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Mecca, Aug. 2, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni's representative and head of the Iranian Hajj pilgrims sent a message here today hailing the massive presence of Hajj pilgrims in the "antipathy towards pagans" rally held here Friday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi's message read that similar demonstrations were held by thousands of pilgrims in Mecca in previous years but this time the Saudi regime's treatment was "barbaric" since the rally coincided with the U.S. political and military scandals.

These self-styled hosts (Saudi rulers) of God's guests this time turned the peaceful demonstration into a mass carnage martyring hundreds of innocent and defenceless pilgrims and wounding thousands of others, Karrubi said in his message. Through this barbaric act, the message continued, the criminal Saudi rulers proved their servitude to the U.S. and the Zionist regime, otherwise, "what other meaning does shooting U.S.-made bullets at those who cried death to the U.S., convey?" it added.

Karrubi said the brutal attack was undoubtedly carried out on the order of the Saudi rulers in previous coordination with the criminal U.S. "such cold-blooded massacre is unprecedented in Mecca's history," he added.

Karrubi called on world Muslims and scholars to find a way for running the two holy sanctuaries which he said belong to all Muslims in order to restore security at the shrines for God's guests. He also expressed his condolences on the disaster to the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam khomeyni, the Muslim ummah and relatives of martyrs of the ghastly incident.

Tehran Says Saudis, Reagan To Be 'Dragged to Trial'

NC020500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0414 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Today, with firm steps of the heroic and courageous nation, the national march of the Iranian Hezbollahi in protest of the massacre of the Iranian pilgrims will be held with immense grandeur. The fascist anti-Islamic American Saudi regime, with the perpetration of its latest atrocity in holy Mecca, shall be dragged to trial. This American regime must answer for the unlawful blood it has shed in the precincts of the sanctuary of divine peace.

The United States and all other oppressive countries must know that this nation stands firm. Reagan should know, and Thatcher should know, and all other flimsy powers of the world should know, that this nation will resist all plots with manliness. O United States! We will defeat your bloodsucking warships in the region, and we will destroy your hollow power. O United States! Let it be known that you will be defeated and the reactionary regimes of the region can do nothing for you. This blood will boil and will be splashed on the faces of the East and West oppression.

Khamene'i Addresses Islamic Envoys on Mecca Events

LD021810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, this afternoon the ambassadors of Islamic countries in Tehran were received by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. This meeting was also attended by Mr. Mir Salim, the president's chief adviser, and by Mr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs. Khamene'i referred to the Saudi police attack on the great march of the pilgrims from Iran and other countries in the streets of Mecca to express their disavowal of the pagans and said that this action by the Saudi Government was designed to intimidate and test the Islamic revolution. He asked the Islamic governments not to misunderstand or be indifferent to this incident.

Khamene'i added: This action was prearranged and premeditated and was carried out with U.S. collusion and foreknowledge to intimidate the Iranian pilgrims. The president added: The enmity and hatred of the Saudi mercenaries and club wielders toward the innocent and defenseless pilgrims is so strong that even now the pilgrims are not safe in the streets. From Friday afternoon until this morning, the Iranian pilgrims were not able to leave their residences to visit the holy places.

Velayati Informs UN, ICO of Mecca 'Massacre'

LD021922 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Following the joint U.S.-Saudi plot which led to the martyring and wounding of a large group of Iranian hajj pilgrims in Mecca, foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent seperate message to heads of several international organizations today.

In a message to the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Velayati explained barbaric crime of the Saudi police and army against Iranian pilgrims on Friday and called for an explicit and immediate condemnation of the act by the United Nations. Velayati also called on De Cuellar to assign a delegation comprising Muslim member states in the United Nations to prepare an accurate report on the Saudi crime as well as the latest situation of the martyrs and wounded pilgrims in Mecca.

The foreign minister, in another message, explained massacre of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims in Mecca as well as its international impact for secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Sharifuddin Pirzada. The preparation of a plan to maintain the security of the hajj pilgrims and facilitate Muslims performance of their religious obligations are

among the initial duties of the conference. Velayati told Pirzada stressing that an international Islamic supervision was necessary to administer the running sanctuaries.

Saudi attack on relief workers in Mecca was also protested by Velayati in a message to president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in which he also called for immediate and explicit condemnation of the Saudi crime.

Chief Justice Sends Message to Khomeyni

NC020909 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Following the brutal attack by the Saudi police on the pilgrims to the house of God and the martyrdom of hundreds of them in the march for the disavowal by Muslims in holy Mecca, the chief justice of the Supreme Court sent a message to Imam Khomeyni.

He stressed that when the imam's courageous combatant offspring foiled the plots of the U.S. arch satan in the azure waters of the Persian Gulf, the deceitful hands of U.S. agents in Saudi Arabia dragged the pilgrims to the house of God in blood and dust merely for raising the cry of disavowing pagans with their shouts of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." They did this to provide a service to their U.S. mentors and to save world oppression from the problems and humiliation of their defeat in the Persian Gulf.

The Saudi rulers shattered the peace of the house of God with their bullets, thus violating the sanctity of the divine precincts as ordained in the holy Koran. They proved in practice that they do not have the required ability, proficiency, or qualifications for guarding the house of divine peace and serving the pilgrims.

War Information Head on 'Response' to Saudi Action

LD020940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0823 GMT 2 Aug 87

["Unscheduled interview" with Kamal Kharrazi, the head of the War Information Headquarters, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Kharrazi, I want to ask you what the answer of our warriors will be to the barbaric actions of the facist Saudi police.

[Kharrazi] We see this action of the facist Saudi police seperate from [word indistinct]. In any case, there has always been a very close tie between (?the position) taken by Iraq and those of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They have been acting as a [word indistinct] triangle. The United States is also trying to bring its presence to the region. This is related to these events, since they are all interconnected.

There is no doubt that we are not alone in considering this incident [in Mecca] a clear indication that the Al Sa'ud family is not worthy of looking after the holy places and should be replaced by an international body. We are certain that our fighters on the war fronts and in the Persian Gulf will give (?appropriate) responses to these agents of the United States and the United States itself.

Yesterday we observed that the ground forces in the Maymak front, where the Ba'thist enemy had been trying for several days to infiltrate our positions, carried out the latest stages of their operations. We will give the martyr-nurturing ummah the news of these operations. In the Persian Gulf our warriors are preparing for the immense "Martyrdom" maneuvers which will be a great blow to the Americans, the leaders and the masters of this inauspicious gang and the criminal triangle in this region of ours. [Words indistinct] over Saddam, the Ba'th Party and their future in the region.

Muslim Groups Send Condolences Over Mecca Incident

LD021021 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 2, IRNA — Head of Amal movement Nabih Birri castigated on Saturday the barbarous massacre of Iranian and non-Iranian Muslims by elements of global arrogance at a time when U.S. and French fleets are attempting to contain the spread of 'Islamic Spirit' which does not surrender to blood-thirsty greedy powers.

Birri in separate messages condoled with the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni, president Khamene'i and Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the incident. Amal movement has declared a public strike in southern Lebanon on Sunday in protest to the Saudi dynasty crime.

A Lebanese Hizballah cleric Shaykh Subhi Tufayli also denounced the pre-meditated massacre of Iranian and non-Iranian Hajj pilgrims and called on all Muslims to defend their own holy places.

The head of Islamic Amal Husayn al-Musawi also in a message of condolences to Imam Khomeyni said the Saudi rulers 'obey today's idols', the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

The Friday prayers leader of New Delhi Jama Mosque strongly condemned the massacre and expressed his sympathy with the families of the martyrs and with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, various groups of people of Sierra Leone contacted the Iranian cultural consulate where they voiced sympathy with the families of the martyrs and expressed their condolences to Imam Khomeyni. On behalf of Sierra Leone Islamic Federation Al Hajj Bangura [name as received] also condemned the barbaric act of Saudi police.

In the meantime, a group of South African Muslim journalists, including the chief editor of *Muslim News* Mohamed Farid in a statement sent to IRNA office in London categorically denounced the killing. The statement said the massacre occurred while the U.S. is threatening the Islamic Republic of Iran by militarily intervention in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's embassies in Rome and the Vatican in separate statements expressed their hatred of the killing of innocent muslims in

Mecca. The statement of Iranian Embassy in Rome declared that the embassy will be closed on Monday in commemoration of the martyrs. The other statement stressed that the rulers of Saudi Dynasty unmasked themselves as 'the obedient servants of the U.S.'.

Saudi TV Broadcasts 'Censored' Version of Incident

LD021928 Tehran IRNA in English 1917 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Aug. 2, IRNA — Saudi Arabian television showed a 15-minute film on the Mecca tragedy censoring completely the police attack on Iranian pilgrims by machine guns, batons and suffocating gases.

Several Iranian hajj pilgrims were beaten up in Mecca streets well after the film was shown which also carefully censored slogans and placards such as 'Down With the U.S., Down With Israel' chanted and carried by the pilgrims.

The Saudi regime hastily white-washed 'Down With the U.S. and Down With Israel' slogans written on street walls in Mecca by Iranian pilgrims. The white-washing of slogans is a proof of the Saudi regime's subservience to the 'Great Satan'.

Meanwhile, an injured Iranian pilgrim said the Saudi police savagely attacked the pilgrims with batons and fire arms. The insolent police were seen dragging an Iranian woman, beating her mercilessly, he said. Over 1,500 hajj pilgrims injured in the 'unity rally' were rushed to the Iranian medical centers for treatment.

Another wounded Iranian pilgrim said that their peaceful march on the streets was suddenly disrupted by Saudi agents who began hurling stones at the defenseless men and women. At the same time, she added, Saudi police attacked the pilgrims with batons.

Another hospitalized pilgrim said the Saudi policy brutally struck pilgrims on the head, especially women, with batons. The Saudi police which seemed to be devoid of all humanity beat the people so badly, that they were all smeared in blood, she added.

BBC 'Disbelieves' Saudi Footage

LD030829 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] London, Aug. 3, IRNA — The footage released by the Saudi Arabian Government shows nothing to support its claim that innocent pilgrims were not gunned down by its security force, only that the police conduct was unsatisfactory. Showing the Saudi pictures for the first time on British Television Sunday, the BBC even disbelieved its validity as any portrayal of what actually happened in Friday's massacre.

It said that the video was distributed by the Saudi Arabian Government as "evidence" that it did not machine-gun down the pilgrims but appeared to only show that its security forces were "inadequate."

"The pictures actually prove nothing," the BBC said, commenting on the fact that it only showed a part of a unit rally and brief edited extracts of some seemingly subsequent clash between pilgrims and the security services.

Noted in the footage, which took over 24 hours to compile, was the avoidance of wide-angled shots and the total exclusion of any clips of women and disabled people, who made up most of the casualties. The film had been shown on television in Saudi Arabia late Saturday, when the Information Minister Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir had to finally admit to the high number of casualties, but denied the police had used automatic weapons, saying "not a bullet was fired."

"There is no dispute that more than 400 died and 600 were injured, but the video released by the Saudis shows no incidence in which those casualty figures could have been incurred, nor any bodies," the BBC said.

Reports from Mecca suggest that the Saudi authorities are still attempting to hide their crimes by refusing to deliver the majority of the victims' bodies.

Tehran Commentary on U.S. Objectives in Mecca

LD011433 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The criminal hand of the United States has appeared again through one of its mercenaries, shedding the blood of a number of people. Following Bloody Friday of 8 September in Tehran, Islam and the Islamic revolution have witnessed yet another bloody Friday. Not in Tehran this time, but in Mecca, next to God, next to the Mountain of Light and the cave of Hira'.

The American masked agents opened machinegun fire on hundreds of Mecca pilgrims and shed their blood because they had committed the offense of chanting "God is Great," "There is no God but God." They also expressed their disavowal of the infidels, thus recalling the memory of the torture of Muslim revolutionaries in Mecca at the hand of Arab reactionaries and pagans which resulted in the martyrdom of dozens of freedom-loving and revolutionary human beings.

Because of its political and military defeats in the Persian Gulf the United States deliberately sought to create the bloody tragedy in Mecca in order to exploit the political and propaganda outcome. The following are the United States' objectives in creating the Mecca tragedy on Friday:

1. To manufacture a news-making event at international level in order to distract the attention of world public opinion, particularly that of the Islamic and Middle East countries, from the U.S. Navy's defeat in protecting oil tankers of U.S. mercenary regimes;

2. To create a climate of fear and intimidation in favor of U.S. policies. That is, the United States is trying to say it will respond to the act of burning imperialism's flag next to the house of God, as well as the smashing of the mythical power of the United

States, by means of a bullet fired by a mercenary soldier, trained by U.S. advisers, at the heart of a Muslim assembly;

3. By means of this bloody tragedy, the United States is officially declaring to the Islamic world and to the world's Muslims that it will tolerate Islam only as a ceremonial rite, totally ineffectual in the Muslim world, and that it will respond with great violence against any Islamic planning and adherence to Islamic precepts;

4. By opening fire on a Muslim assembly in Mecca and by quoting the false and fabricated report of the dependent Saudi Arabian regime's interior minister to the effect that the pilgrims had engaged in clashes among themselves, the United States is trying to say, first, that there is no unanimity of view among the world's Muslims with regard to the need for a disavowal of infidels to the extent that some of the pilgrims would clash with their own coreligionists in order to protect the infidels. Therefore, they intend to show that some of the pilgrims to the house of God support U.S. imperialism. Second, the United States is trying to prove that Iranian pilgrims form a small minority in the Islamic world and that their revolutionary slogans concerning the need to fight world infidels and international imperialism are unacceptable to their coreligionists and fellow fighters. Consequently, it intends to accuse world Muslims of cooperating with world imperialism. This is the service provided by the dependent Saudi Arabian regime to the United States, thus again becoming an instrument for the sinister policies of U.S. imperialism.

The dependent Saudi Arabian regime is under the impression that making martyrs of Iranian pilgrims, just like martyring the innocent and enslaved inhabitants of Al-Qatif and Al-Ahsa', is a simple matter. The Saudi regime believes it can fight the Iranian pilgrims' revolutionary slogans and intellect with bullets and G-3 rifles. The Saudi Arabian regime must bear in mind that the cries of innocence of Saudi Arabian martyrs are being shouted today by Iranian pilgrims, and they are reverberating throughout the world. The shedding of blood last Friday in Mecca, this holy city, and during this holy month, by the Saudi Arabian regime, amounts to digging its own grave.

We warn the United States to avoid making greater mistakes just to make up for past mistakes. We warn the U.S. not to expose its other weaknesses — the dependent regimes in the region — just because it wants to hide its weakness in the Persian Gulf. It must not assume that by clumsy guile, deception, and propaganda it can deny its direct responsibility in the bloody tragedy of last Friday.

The world of Islam considers this crime as a new one committed by imperialism. Today's Muslims are aware of the implications of Britain renaming a Kuwaiti ship and registering it in Gibraltar under British protection. Britain is trying to say that the era of expansion of Islam by such commanders as Tariq is over, that this is the era of the mercenaries who, instead of attempting to promote Islam in Europe, bring the enemies of Islam to the heart of the Islamic world to protect their interests.

However, despite all these plots and conspiracies, we again declare that the Persian Gulf will turn into a graveyard for imperialism's mercenaries. The bloody tragedy in Mecca will cultivate the love of freedom throughout the Islamic world.

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Vorontsov

Received by Khamene'i

LD031815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this afternoon received Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov and the delegation accompanying him. In this meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, and the political director general of the Foreign Ministry, Mr Vorontsov expressed his deep sorrow regarding the tragic incident of the massacre of pilgrims to the holy house of God by the Saudi police and added: We never thought that such an event would take place in such a holy place.

Conveying the warm greetings and respect of Mr Gorbachev and Mr Gromyko, he informed the president of our country of the stress placed by the leadership of his country on the further expansion of relations, bilateral cooperation, and the strengthening of bilateral relations. While condemning the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region, Mr Vorontsov said: Moscow's firm stance regarding the Persian Gulf is for all foreign warships to leave the region and it still insists on this policy. We believe that there is no reason for the presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf.

Mr Khamene'i thanked Mr Vorontsov for his expressions of sympathy regarding the tragic incident in holy Mecca. He expressed his satisfaction at the recent position of the Soviet Union concerning the Persian Gulf, and he said: The United States insists on connecting the issues of the Persian Gulf with the issues of the war. This is not a correct logic. The war is an aggression which was started by Iraq against us, and the issues of the Persian Gulf are due to Iraqi attempts to expand the scope of the aggression.

Mr Khamene'i added: We will not be the first to initiate tension in the Persian Gulf. However, if the United States wishes to engage in fire-making then we are determined to give a firm response to it.

Referring to the Security Council resolution, Mr Khamene'i stressed: The resolution which was approved as a result of U.S. attempts contains nothing new. As in the past it was approved without referring to the main fact; namely, the issue of aggression and the aggressor.

Referring to the principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the issue of the war, Mr Khamene'i said: Our people will continue the war on the ground borders until the downfall of the aggressive Iraqi regime. This is our strong and logical stance.

Concluding his remarks the president of our country stressed a need for expanding political, economic, and technical cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Discusses Gulf With Musavi

LD032205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent, Mr Vorontsov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, met and conferred with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi Monday afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by our deputy foreign minister and a number of other officials from both sides, the Soviet deputy foreign minister noted the breadth and depth of bilateral relations and said that the repeated visits by officials of both countries is a sign of progress in bilateral relations. He stressed that the two countries' positions with respect to the Persian Gulf issue are similar and that opposition to military presence in this sensitive area is necessary.

Our prime minister in turn expressed his satisfaction with their growing bilateral relations and said: We are interested in expanding relations, particularly long-term economic cooperation. Mr Musavi, referring to the current negotiations on cooperation in petroleum, described their progress as preparation for further agreements.

The prime minister expressed his concern over the unjust position assumed by the Security Council and reaffirmed that the Islamic Republic has firm views on the imposed war, calling Saddam one of the causes of U.S. influence in the region. Mr Musavi referred to the aggressive presence of the great satan in the Persian Gulf, saying: The United States must not feel secure in the Persian Gulf.

According to this report, during the meeting the sides agreed that experts from both countries would begin discussions next month on exporting Iranian oil through the Black Sea.

Interviewed Before Departure

NC040553 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who came to Tehran at the invitation of our Foreign Ministry and at the head of a delegation, departed from the capital this morning. Mr Vorontsov was seen off by Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs.

Prior to his departure, the Soviet deputy foreign minister gave an interview to a Central News Unit correspondent and discussed the impact this visit has had on deepening relations between the two countries. He said: It is only natural that there should be more contacts between the two big and neighboring countries in view of the issues they have to discuss and in order to expand their relations. Referring to the Soviet Union's interest in participating in the Islamic Republic's long-term projects, he said: Favorable grounds have been created for cooperation in the political and economic spheres, especially power, steel, and the expansion of the two countries' industries. Noting that the continuation of bilateral programs and projects can expand relations between the two countries, and that officials of the two countries had discussed this issue, Mr Vorontsov said: We are extremely optimistic regarding the future of the two countries' relations and are satisfied with the outcome of this visit.

Mr Larijani also spoke about the outcome of the visit: During this visit, various bilateral issues, as well as regional topics such as the Persian Gulf, were discussed and studied. He said: As Mr Khamane'i stated, we welcome and support the Soviet Union's stand on the Persian Gulf and believe it can truly be secure without the presence of foreign forces. As long as foreign forces, especially American military expeditions, remain in the area, we cannot envisage any security for the region. He added: In our opinion, Iranian-Soviet relations are progressing and developing at a very good level. We also hope to see expanded cooperation between the two countries in various economic, technical, political and international fields in the future.

PRC Commerce Minister Meets With Velayati

LD021953 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Liu Yi met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today and briefed him on his talks with Iranian commerce, industries and agriculture ministers. In the meeting, Liu Yi stressed on expansion of Tehran-Beijing relations and said his country is ready to cooperate with Iran on some projects. He also expressed hope that the two countries' third joint economic commission meet would end with significant progress being made.

Referring to the warm relations between Iran and China, Liu Yi said the two countries pursue the same foreign policy of supporting the Third World countries in the international arena and the United Nations.

In reply Velayati said all necessary grounds are ready for expansion of bilateral ties in light of historical relations between the two countries. Concerning the no East-no West policy of the Islamic Republic and independent policy of China, mutual relations can further expand, Velayati said.

Meanwhile, Liu Yi discussed necessity of close Tehran-Beijing cooperation in cattle breeding, agriculture and fisheries with agriculture minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali here Saturday.

The two sides expressed hope that they would cooperate in fisheries and agricultural research in addition to economic, trade, technical and scientific fields within the framework of the third joint economic commission.

In the meeting, the two countries also agreed to use each other's experiences in agricultural crops like cotton and rice as well as fisheries, irrigation and dam construction.

Liu Yi heading a 13-man delegation, arrived here Thursday night to participate in the third Tehran-Beijing joint economic commission meet.

Meets With Oil Minister

LD032100 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — Visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Liu Yi conferred with Iranian minister of oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh on the need for expansion of Tehran-Beijing economic relations, here Monday. The Iranian minister outlined his country's activities at the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in a bid to improve and stabilize oil prices. Stressing on further cooperation between China and OPEC, Aqazadeh announced Iran's readiness to take necessary measures to create better understanding and cooperation between the two.

In response, the Chinese minister lauded the Islamic Republic's efforts at OPEC, saying that his country has always backed the OPEC members' policy for stablizing the oil market and will support it in future. The Chinese commerce minister expressed hope that the volume of Irano-Chinese trade exchanges would be doubled.

It was also decided at the meeting that delegations from Iran and China hold talks on Chinese cooperation in the oil exploration field.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Height No 620 in Maymak Taken

LD020829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0812 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O sacrificing Iranian nation! Please pay attention. The infidel-fighting warriors of Islam, with a crushing onslaught in the Maymak theater of operations against the diminishing Saddamist forces, have managed to capture very important and sensitive heights, including Height No 620, known as Shohada [Martyrs]. While annihilating a considerable number of the Ba'thist mercenaries, they have pushed the rest back and have strengthened their positions on this height.

Iraqi Losses in 'Nasr-6' Theater

LD020858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0827 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to reports received from the operational region, in the wake of the onslaught by the Islamic forces against the Saddamite forces, many of the latter were killed or injured, while a large number were captured. So far, 96 of the POW's have been evacuated to rear lines, including 9 officers, 30 NCO's, and 57 soldiers.

According to the same reports, in the course of operations in the heights west of Maymak to mop up the Saddamite filth, the 36th Infantry Brigade of the 2d Division, the 4th Infantry Brigade of the 2d Division, the 108th Infantry Brigade of the 16th Division, the 1st Commando Brigade of the 4th Division, the Commando Brigade of the I Special Army Corps, the 801st Brigade and the 95th Brigade of the 23d Division, and the 705th Brigade of the 28th Division of Iraq have been wiped out. Figures on enemy losses and casualties in this region will be reported immediately as soon as they are available.

Maymak Heights 'Purged' of Iraqis

LD020913 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0855 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. The Maymak area of operations, which is referred to as Sayyid Sadr in the communiques issued by the aggressor Iraqi Army and which has been (?the target of continual aggressions) by the agents of the Ba'thist regime, was one of the first sectors to witness the onslaught of the Ba'thist army at the beginning of the war because of its important strategic heights that overlook a considerable area of Iraqi soil in the central front.

According to our latest reports, the zealots of the army of Islam, with their lightning raid last night against the heights in the northern part of Maymak and the hills Shohada and Doqolo, as well as the heights facing Height No 670, while destroying the remainder of the forces of the Iraqi II Army Corps, purged the region from the filth of the presence of the Ba'thist enemy.

Bombing Raids on Iraqi Positions

LD020920 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers in six separate missions pounded positions and strongholds of Iraqi forces in Maymak operational theater Sunday morning, inflicting heavy damage and losses on the Iraqi Ba'thists.

The Joint Staff Headquarters of the Armed Forces in a statement said that all Iranian fighter bombers after successfully carrying out their mission and setting afire Iraqi equipment, returned safely to base. The missions were carried out at 0204, 0218, 0219, 0435, 0542, and 0545 GMT Sunday.

Iraqi Officers Killed

LD020930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0910 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to our latest reports from the Maymak theater of operations, following the operations of the capable forces of Islam, a considerable number of the forces of the Ba'thist Iraqis and the bodies of these mercenaries are scattered around the area of operations. Among the stinking bodies of the enemy, the bodies of a number of high-ranking Iraqi Army officers can be seen, including that of the commander of the Commando Brigade of the Iraqi I Corps, who is a brigadier general, and that of the commander of the 17th Battalion of the 59th Armored Brigade.

Iraq Trims Reports on Clashes
LD021020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O, brave Iranian nation! The Ba'thist Iraqi Army, after 10 days of repeated defeats suffered by the 14 brigades of its II Army Corps in their attempts to gain access to key heights in the strategic region of Maymak, last night for the first time since the beginning of the Maymak battles reported only the numbers of its forces and helicopters, without noting their location in the region.

According to foreign correspondents, silence by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq despite the fierce battles raging in the Maymak region during the period, confirms the validity of the military communiques issued by Iran about controlling the situation and about its supremacy over the strategic Maymak heights.

More Heights in Maymak Taken
LD021030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please listen to the latest report from the Maymak operational theater. According to reports reaching us from the Maymak operational theater, following the brave onslaught of the warriors of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Ba'thist forces of Saddam, other important heights of the region, including Heights Nos 610 and 590, have been purged of the presence of the Saddamist filth. Currently, the capable warriors of Islam have complete control over the heights and strategic highlands of this area. During the course of the operation so far, 17 tanks, and hundreds of vehicles, personnel carriers, and heavy artillery pieces of the enemy have been destroyed and a considerable number of light and heavy weapons have been captured by the zealots of Islam.

O, you proud members of the army of Islamic light! Be proud because our honor and the pride of the nation is in all the political and military fronts, is in the hands of your ceasless battle and powerful arms!

Iraqi Offensive 'Smashed'
LD021933 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Heavy fightings in Sumar and Mehran operational regions, western fronts, over the past few weeks have totally smashed Iraqi military capabilities and bogged down major parts of Iraqi units in the said fronts, political observers leaving Iraq for neighbouring countries said today.

During the fighting, Iranian forces totally routed eight reinforced Iraqi battalions in a single day alone, said the observers, noting that Iraq has lost four of its brigades in the Sumar and Mehran heights within a short period. A large number of Iraqi troops stationed in the southern fronts have been moved to the central fronts following Iran's chain operations in the region.

The observers said the Iraqi regime uses covered trucks to carry dead and wounded Iraqi soldiers. Hospitals in the city of Diyala and its nearby areas are full of wounded Iraqi soldiers who are being transferred to other cities, they added.

Communique No 2,916
LD021746 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy damage and casualties when ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched operations "Nasr-6" code named '0 Aba 'Abd Allah al-Husayn' in Maymak heights, western fronts last night, said a military communique here sunday.

Communique Number 2916 of the Joint Staff Command said the Muslim forces of Iran mopped up the heights of Maymak of Iraqi troops and liberated 'Shohada' (Martyrs) Hill Saturday. The Muslim combatants are stabilising their positions in the region, it added.

Iranian jet fights heavily bombed Iraqi positions in Maymak region at 02:04, 02:18, 02:19, 04:35, 05:42 and 05:45 GMT Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the enemy forces. The jet fighters returned safely to their bases.

Some 19 foreign cargo ships, oil and gas tankers were intercepted and searched in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, but were allowed to proceed since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard, concluded the communique.

Communique No 2,917
LD031748 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed three Iraqi counteroffensives to retake Shohada (Martyrs) Heights in the western theater of Maymak, from dusk Sunday to dawn Monday, inflicting substantial casualities and losses on the attacking enemy troops each time and forcing them to flee.

Announcing the above today, the 2917th Joint Staff Communique reported that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions, one munitions dump and several tanks and armoured personnel carriers were destroyed in the southern and northwestern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the western fronts Sunday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and destroying 15 gun emplacements and three vehicles of theirs.

The artillery fire of Iranian forces inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi armoured and motorized units in Sardasht, Panjwin, Helaleh, Qara Tapeh and Nahre 'Anbar yesterday.

Iran's navy coastal artillery fire shelled Iraq's Al-'Amayah and

Al-Bakr oil platforms in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf Sunday, disrupting the movement of enemy vessels.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied there were no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, the communique concluded.

3,500 Casualties in 'Nasr-6'

LD021318 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — More than 3,500 Iraqi troops have so far been killed and 1,000 others wounded in the course of "Nasr-6" operations started in Maymak region Saturday night, Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint army and IRGC headquarters announced here Sunday.

During the operations a large number of Iraqi forces were also taken captive, 120 of whom were transferred behind front lines. This number includes 11 officers, 30 NCOS and 79 soldiers.

The strategic heights 610, 590 and 620 (Shohada) were mopped up of Iraqi troops, facilitating superior and accurate artillery fire of Muslim forces against the enemy.

Two Iraqi mirage fighters as well as six helicopters supporting enemy mechanised units were shot down by anti-aircraft gunners of the Muslim combatants who also destroyed 17 tanks, hundreds of personnel carriers and heavy artillery pieces and seized a considerable amount of heavy and light weaponry.

Iranian jet fighters heavily pounded Iraqi positions and units in the region in six sorties today further inflicting substantial losses on the enemy.

Iraqi units routed during the operations are as follows:

Infantry Brigade 36 of the Second Division by 60 to 70 percent.
Infantry Brigade 4 totally routed.
Infantry Brigade 108 of 16th Division by 80 percent.
Commando Brigade 1 of the First Corps by 50 percent.
Brigade 801 by 65 percent.
Brigade 95 of 23rd Division by 45 percent.
Brigade 705 of 28th Division by 80 percent.
Armored brigade 70 of 17th Division, Infantry Brigade 77 of the First Division, Brigade 65 of special forces, Armored Brigade 10, Hassin Commando Battalion and Mechanised Battalion 17 of Brigade 59 of 17th Division by 35 percent.
Battalions 240, 12, 3, 247, 661 and 928 by 25 to 40 percent.

Iraqi Troops Bombed Near Maymak

LD040949 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites in Maymak operational theater, western fronts, three times Tuesday morning, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy forces.

The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which took place at 02:09, 02:45 and 02:51 GMT.

Iraqi Casualties Reach 10,500

LD031801 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 3 aug 87

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 3, IRNA — Iraq's Ba'thist Army suffered a deadly blow when 10,500 of its personnel were killed or wounded in the Iranian "Nasr-6" operations launched in the western fronts early Saturday, disclosed an Iranian military commander today. The commander said that if Iranian forces continue to deal such heavy blows on the Iraqi Army, the Baghdad regime would soon be brought closer to its doomed fate.

Fourteen Iraqi infantry and commando brigades were destroyed between 40 to 100 percent, and strategic heights numbers 640, (Shohada) 610, 600, 590 and 450 were liberated in the "Nasr-6" operations, said the commander. He also added that two Iraqi warplanes and six helicopters were downed by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the operations. All Iraqi pilots were killed with the wreckage.

Iran's Muslim combatants also captured 122 Iraqi soldiers, including several ranking officers, and destroyed 250 enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers together with several artillery pieces and gun emplacements in the operations.

The commander said the "Nasr-6" operations taught Saddam Husayn and his supporters, especially Saudi Arabia's reactionary rulers, a good lesson to abstain from anti-Islamic activities.

The Iranian combatants have so far smashed 35 Iraqi counterattacks over Maymak heights, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the attacking enemy troops and forcing the others to retreat, the commander concluded.

Communique No 2,918

EA041635 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 4, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers in three separate sorties heavily pounded Iraqi troop concentration sites in Maymak operational theater, western fronts, today, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy forces and returning safely to bases. The bombings took place at 02:09, 02:45 and 02:51 GMT.

Announcing the above, the 2918th Joint Staff Communique reported here Tuesday that Iranian combatants smashed an Iraqi counterattack to retake Khanaqin heights in Maymak early Monday, killing or wounding 100 enemy soldiers and capturing several others. The enemy POWS are mostly from the first and second battalions of Commando Brigade 2 and Infantry Brigade 705 of Iraq's 2nd Corps.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses and movement of their motorized units was checked by Iranian artillery fire in meymak and Kani-Sheykh yesterday. An Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Kani-Sheykh, western fronts, sustained heavy casualties and was forced to flee

yesterday when shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants. The bodies of some enemy patrols are left in the war theater.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and parts of enemy positions, three vehicles, three munitions dumps and 10 gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed in the southern and northwestern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian combatants Monday.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected seven cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied there was no Iraq-destined cargo aboard them, the communique concluded.

110 Iraqi Troops Killed in Maymak

LD041805 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Some 110 Iraqi troops were killed and five tanks, one personnel carrier and two munitions dumps of theirs destroyed by Muslims combatants of Iran in a clash in Maymak Region yesterday. Some six Iraqi soldiers captured in the clash were transfered behind the fronts.

BAKHTAR Reports 'Recurrent' Explosions in Peshawar

LD020652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 1, *Bakhtar* — Recurrent explosions have severely shocked the city of Peshawar and its surroundings causing human and material losses, reports reaching here say.

The first explosion occurred in Parang market of Peshawar city and the second one near the police statiion of Pakistan in Hango region which severely injured four persons.

Two other severe explosions have reportedly occurred in a crowded area of Afghan extremists locating five kilometers west of Peshawar and the areas around the camps of Naser Bagh. Eyewitnesses say that the intensity of the explosions was so strong that they severely shocked the nearby buildings to a distance of three kilometres and broke the glasses of the shops and houses.

The building of Habib Bank in north Wazirestan was partly damaged due to the bomb's blast but mo material casualty was reported. Four persons attached to the Afghan extremist groups received severe injuries due to a bomb's blast inside Miramshah market, the report adds.

Shi'ite Group Sees U.S. Hand

BK011105 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jul 87 p 6

[Text] Lahore, July 21 — The Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqh-e-Jafaria [TNFJ; Movement for the Enforcement of the Shi'ite Faith], Lahore chapter, staged a demonstration to protest over the incidents of bomb blasts in Lahore and Karachi. They described the series of bomb blasts as an "American conspiracy" against Pakistan. They also set on fire two American flags and raised anti-American slogans to express their resentment against America.

A small group of workers of the TNFJ carrying banners and placards assembled on the Sharah-e-Quaid-e-Azam in front of the Masjid-e-Shuhada, here on Tuesday afternoon. Two American flags were spread on the road. Syed Munir Hussain Shah and Maulana Syed Mashoor Hussain Kazmi, president TNFJ Lahore who was leading the demonstration made a brief address, condemning American policy against the Islamic world. He said that if America attacked Iran then no American in Pakistan would be left alive.

Banners carried by the demonstrators read "Those who are creating misunderstanding between the Shias and Sunnis are imperialist agents", "American interwention in the Gulf would have a high cost", "Bomb blasts in Lahore and Karachi are an American conspiracy". There were many other placards of a similar nature.

As the demonstrators s[illegible] out on the main city roads, and blocked the traffic, police rushed to push them aside. But before the police force arrived they had set om fire two American flags. However, demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

President Offers Support to Saudi Arabian King

BK031352 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq made a telephone call to [Saudi] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the Islamic holy shrines, to express his deep anguish and grief over the most unfortunate incident that occurred outside the holy shrine in Mecca on Friday [31 July]. The president prayed that God would grant wisdom and sanity to all elements of the Islamic community so that they can demonstrate unity and solidarity, especially on the sacred occasion of hajj. The president also assured King Fahd of his support so that the Saudi Government, under his leadership, can make arrangements for the hajj with full dignity, solemnity, and in an atmosphere of peace and unity.

Meanwhile, King Fahd has sent messages to the heads of all Muslim countries, explaining (?details) of the incident that occurred on Friday.

Nation's Hajj Pilgrims in Mecca Reported Safe

BK031610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] A senior officer of the Religious Affairs Ministry told the *Associated Press of Pakistan* that all Pakistani hajj pilgrims are safe in Saudi Arabia.

Iranian Envoy Arrives, Meets With Leaders

BK040228 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The Iranian president's special envoy, Mostafa Mirsalim, met with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo separately in Rawalpindi yesterday evening. The special envoy delivered a message to the president from his Iranian counterpart concerning the holy Mecca incident of Friday [31 July]. The president once again expressed grief and sympathy over the tragic incident on the Pakistani people's behalf. The Iranian special envoy delivered a similar message to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo that was also heard by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who was in attendance.

Tehran Reports Reaction to Mecca Incident

NC040829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The crime perpetrated by Saudi Arabia's U.S. regime in martyring and wounding hundreds of pilgrims to the house of God in Mecca continues to be highlighted in Pakistan's political-religious circles and press.

The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that Sunni and Shi'ite clergymen in Pakistan are holding meetings and issuing statements strongly condemning the joint U.S.-Saudi crime in Mecca. Meanwhile, the Muslim people of Pakistan are also

organizing demonstrations in various cities to express their aversion to the profanity committed by the Saudi regime and U.S. elements against the house of God's sanctity.

Karachi and (?Mohlan) were the scenes of anti-U.S. demonstrations by Pakistan's Muslims. The report states that the demonstrators chanted slogans against the United States and the Saudi dynasty, and called for the holy shrines to be controlled by a committee representing Islamic countries.

The same report states that all Pakistani newspapers carried front-page reports on the incidents in Mecca on Bloody Friday, expressing their regret and devoting articles to it.

The report states that the newspaper *Jang* featured an article on the pro-U.S. Saudi dynasty's massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God and wrote: This shameful incident has gladdened the hearts of Israel, as well as anti-Islamic and corrupt regimes.

Junejo Sends Gandhi Message on Colombo 'Incident'
BK011536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has expressed grief and sorrow over the incident experienced by the Indian prime minister in Colombo. In a message to Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister stated that all such violent activities should be strongly condemned. He expressed sympathy on behalf of the Pakistani Government and people, and expressed happiness over Rajiv Gandhi's complete safety following the incident.

Junejo Meets With U.S. Official Armacost
BK030345 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi yesterday evening. They exchanged views on bilateral relations, Afghanistan, and the regional situation. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Nevis Raphel were also in attendance.

The prime minister later hosted a dinner in honor of Mr Armacost.

Rebel Leader Returns, Agrees To Surrender Arms

BK031133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] The Indian Government is fully confident that the surrender of arms will take place as envisaged. This was stated by the Indian high commissioner, J.N. Dixit, at a news conference at the Indian House in Colombo. He explained that the handing over of weapons will take place peacefully and may take a little more time than the stipulated schedule.

Mr Dixit discounted rumors that Indian troops had suffered casualties and said that they had already established close relations with Sri Lankan counterpart and people in the Jaffna area. The troop strength will be increased or decreased according to the wishes of President Jayewardene. India regarded Sri Lanka a sovereign nation and respected its wishes. General Harkrit Singh and other unit chiefs of the Indian Army and Navy have paid a courtesy call on President Jayewardene in Colombo.

Mr Dixit said that the Indian Navy has commenced patrolling their side of the Palk Strait. The cease-fire is being observed and no incident has been reported. The Indian troops at Jaffna has (?turned out) and also entered the city.

Meanwhile, the leader of the LTTE, Mr V. Prabhakaran, has returned to Jaffna and reports say that he has agreed to order his men to lay down their arms.

Addresses Meeting in Jaffna

BK041535 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The leader of the largest separatist group, the LTTE, Velupillai Prabhakaran, said today that his members will surrender their weapons. Addressing a largely attended meeting in Jaffna, he said that they would surrender their arms [words indistinct]. He added that the Tigers had loved India and did not want to fight with India.

According to latest reports, the LTTE leader said that the LTTE may or may not contest the provincial council elections, but he categorically said that he personally would not contest the elections nor accept the post of chief minister.

First Rebels Surrender Weapons

BK041033 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1024 GMT 4 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 04 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Seventy five (75) Tamil militants of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) group had surrendered their weapons. They are the first batch to do so, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced in its news bulletin this afternoon.

Its leader, A.F. Sevam, said that their group had decided to do so on Sunday. The handing over took place today. The TELO said that they have personnel in Mannar, Mullaitivu and Batticaloa.

The SLBC also said that the inspector general of police (IGP) Cyril Herathuias saying [as received] that peaceful environment now prevails in almost every part of the country. However in a statement to the SLBC he said that security measures were being continuously maintained. A large number of security forces and police personnel from the northern and eastern regions is being deployed in other areas to maintain law and order.

Meanwhile, investigations with regard to persons taken into custody following violent activities are continuing. Over 150 persons in the Kalutara District suspected of involvement in violent activities during the past few days have been taken into custody by the police. Among them are several members of the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna Party] and a Grama Sevaka [village social worker] officer.

The Kalutara assistant commissioenr of cooperatives said that 33 cooperative regional outlets and three rural banks have been completely destroyed. But distribution of essential food items are smoothly maintained.

Indian Army Moves Into Jaffna Fort 3 Aug

BK031244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] As per the terms of the India-Sri Lankan agreement, the Indian peacekeeping force today went through Jaffna and moved into Jaffna Fort and the Army camps at Palali and Kankesanturai in cooperation with the Sri Lankan forces. Jaffna Fort was the major base of the Sri Lankan forces. The booby traps and mines set along the fort are being removed. Our Madras correspondent, Perumal, who visited Jaffna said the people are jubilant over the arrival of the Indian peacekeeping force.

Curfew Relaxed 3 Aug; Normal Life Resumes

BK030156 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, curfew has been relaxed from 0500 [2330 GMT] this morning and will be reimposed at 1900 this evening. Work will be resumed at government offices today. The Railway Department will resume many long and short distance train services beginningtoday. This includes services from Colombo Fort to Anuradhapura, Kandy, Puttalam and Polonnaruwa. The Yaldevi [train] will operate up to Mankulam from today.